PEACE MAKER™ 5

ピースメーカー

Nanae Chrono

PEACE MAKER

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Peace Maker Volume 5
Created by NANAE CHRONO

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PEACE MAKER

ピースメーカー

Volume 5

by Nanae Chrono

ICHIMURA TETSUNOSUKE

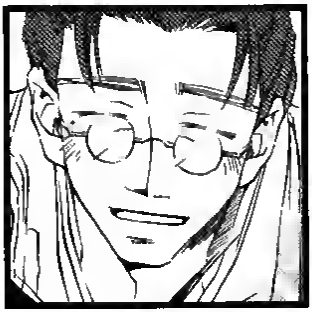
HIJIKATA'S PAGE

BRASH TETSU HAS JOINED THE SHINSENGUMI TO LEARN TO BECOME STRONG. HE WANTS TO GET REVENGE ON HIS PARENTS' MURDERERS, CHOUSHUU REBELS. ALTHOUGH HE JOINED THE SHINSENGUMI WITH ASPIRATIONS OF BECOMING A SWORDSMAN, HE'S BEEN ASSIGNED THE THANKLESS DUTY OF HIJIKATA'S PAGE.

HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU

VICE COMMANDER

BECAUSE OF HIS COLD DEMEANOR AND BRUTALITY, HE IS KNOWN AS THE "DEMON VICE COMMANDER."



YAMANAMI KEISUKE

VICE COMMANDER

THIS BUDDHA-LIKE VICE COMMANDER COULDN'T BE LESS LIKE HIJIKATA. HE'S OFTEN SEEN CARRYING HIS ABACUS.

OKITA SOUJI

CAPTAIN OF THE FIRST SQUAD

THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN THE SHINSENGUMI. HE'S GENERALLY CALM AND FRIENDLY, BUT WIELDING A BLADE CAN TRANSFORM HIM INTO A HEARTLESS KILLER.

KITAMURA SUZU

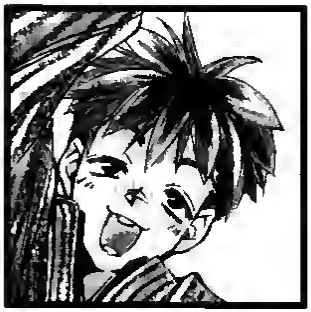
A BOY WITH SILVER HAIR. HE HAS NO FAMILY AND LIVES WITH HIS MASTER, YOSHIDA TOSHIMARO. HE AND HIS MASTER OPPOSE THE SHINSENGUMI.

KONDOU ISAMI

DIRECTOR

A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE SHINSENGUMI AND ALSO A MASTER AT THE SHIEIKAN DOJO IN EDO, THE MAIN DOJO OF THE TENNEN RISHIN STYLE.

MAIN CHARACTERS



NAGAKURA SHINPACHI

CAPTAIN OF THE SECOND SQUAD

SMALL BUT STRONG. A SWORDSMAN LIKE OKITA. HE FIGHTS IN THE SHINTO-MUNEN SCHOOL STYLE.

TOUDOU HEISUKE

CAPTAIN OF THE EIGHTH SQUAD

ONE OF THE THREE STOOGES OF THE SHINSENGUMI. HE LIKES CUTE THINGS, INCLUDING TETSU.

HARADA SANOSUKE

CAPTAIN OF THE TENTH SQUAD

A GIANT AMONG MEN, HE'S A MASTER OF THE SPEAR IN THE HOZOIN SCHOOL STYLE. HE'S GOOD FRIENDS WITH SHINPACHI.

ICHIMURA TATSUNOSUKE

TETSU'S OLDER BOTHER AND GUARDIAN. HE'S ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT TETSU. TATSU WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH SWORDFIGHTING, AND IS A BOOKKEEPER FOR THE SHINSENGUMI.

YAMAZAKI SUSUMU

SHINSENGUMI NINJA

A SPY FOR THE SHINSENGUMI. HE REPORTS TO HIJIKATA. TACITURN AND COLD, HE HOLDS MANY SECRETS.

SAYA

TETSU SAVED HER FROM SOME RUFFIANS, AND NOW THE TWO ARE FRIENDS. SAYA CANNOT SPEAK, BUT COMMUNICATES THROUGH HAND GESTURES AND WRITING.

SHINSENGUMI MEMBERS

PERSONS OUTSIDE THE SHINSENGUMI

THE STORY OF PEACE MAKER

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF GENJI, 1864, JAPAN WAS IN GREAT TURMOIL. MILITANT AND XENOPHOBIC FORCES, WHICH HAD LONG OPPOSED THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE, ADVOCATED EXPELLING WESTERN INFLUENCE AND RESTORING THE EMPEROR IN KYOTO TO POWER. TO PROTECT THE SHOGUNATE'S INTEREST IN KYOTO, A LEGENDARY PEACEKEEPING FORCE WAS FORMED FROM TWO HUNDRED-SOME RONIN. THEY WERE THE SHINSENGUMI. THIS IS THE STORY OF ICHIMURA TETSUNOSUKE, WHO SOUGHT TO JOIN THEM.

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Act.24
A Hard Day's Night (Scene 1)

TWO ...
DAYS?!
YES.
IN TWO DAYS, ON THE 7TH OF JUNE, WE WILL EXECUTE THE PLAN.
ONE MOMENT, YOSHIDA-DONO.
OUR PLANS ARE UNCHANGED. PREPARE ACCORDINGLY.
DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH FURUTAKA. HE SHALL REAP WHAT HE HAS SOWN.

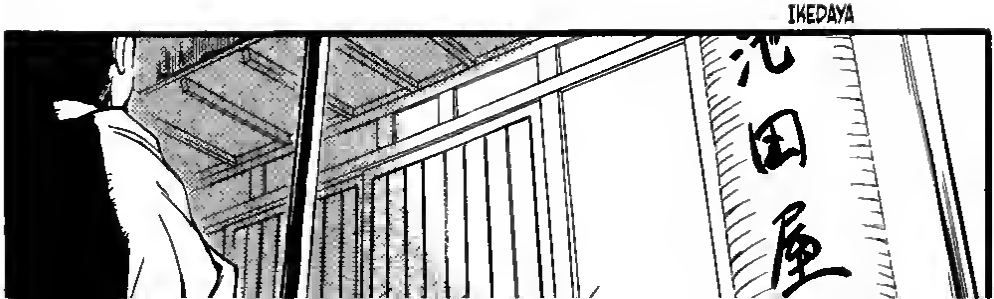
WE MUST RECOVER FURUTAKA-DONO FIRST.
IF WE LET THE LOSS OF OUR COMRADE STAND...
...ONE MIGHT QUESTION OUR UNITY.
I'VE SEEN SOMETHING UNPLEASANT...
I WILL HURRY TO BURN AWAY ITS MEMORY.

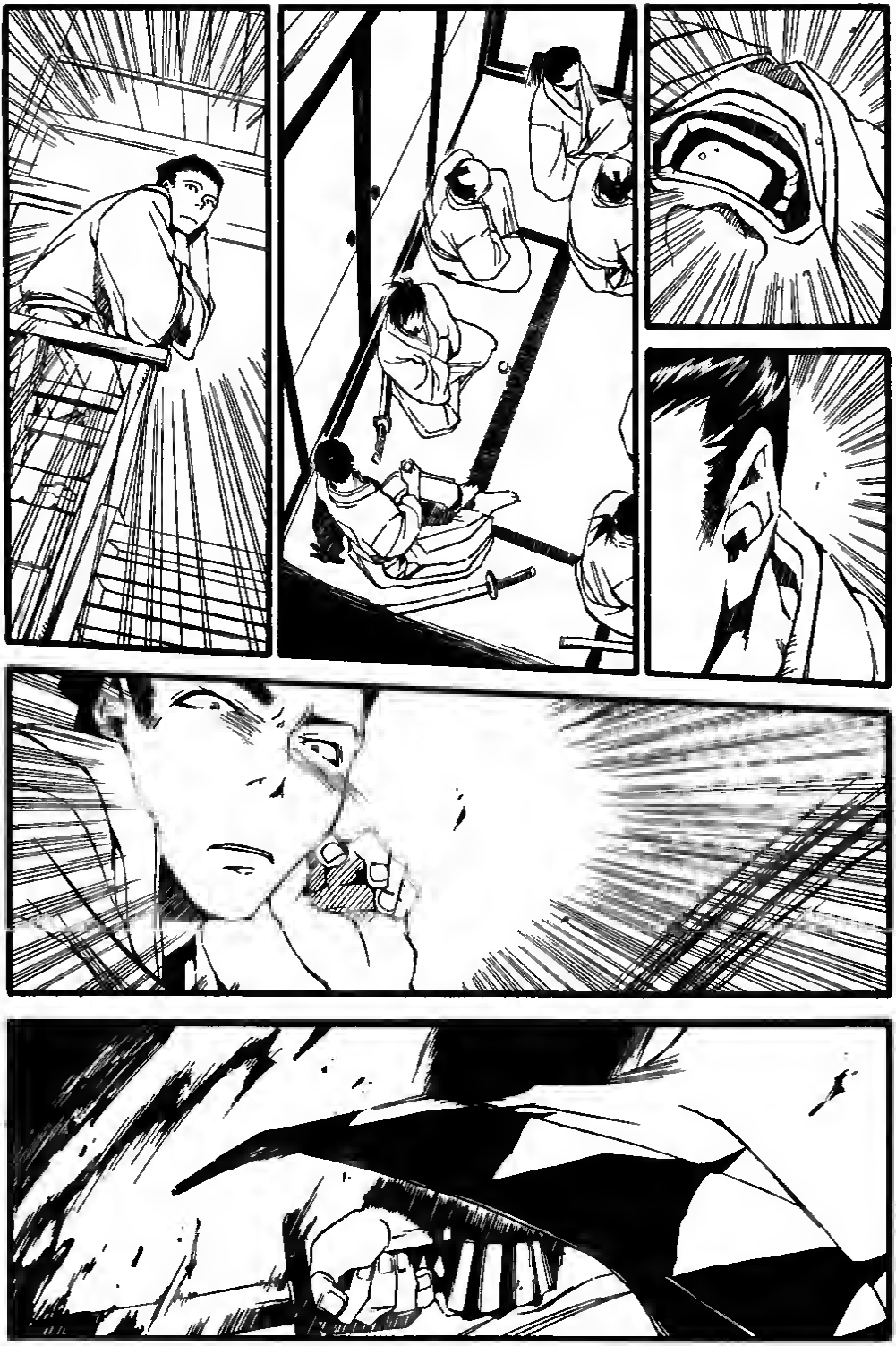
THOSE BAKUFU MUTTS..
HMPH. AT THE LEAST THEIR NOSES ARE GOOD...

!!!
...
HEH HEH.

I'M AMAZED, BOY!
YOU'RE STILL PLAYING AROUND ON ROOFTOPS.
WHAT?
TONIGHT'S THE END OF ALL THE "NINJA PLAY." I AM A MAN NOW.

オン!!


IKEDAYA
池田屋



THUNK
SLASH
THUD
AAA...!
AAAUGH!!

I DECREE...

...THOSE WHO STAND AGAINST US SHALL BE MERCILESSLY CUT DOWN.
INSOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

RUN!!
STOP! DON'T WAVER!
THEIR NUMBERS ARE FEW--IF WE HOLD, WE'LL WIN!
START BY MAKING GHOSTS OF THESE TWO!

!!HOOOOO!!
GUAAAH!
...HUH?!

AGAIN.

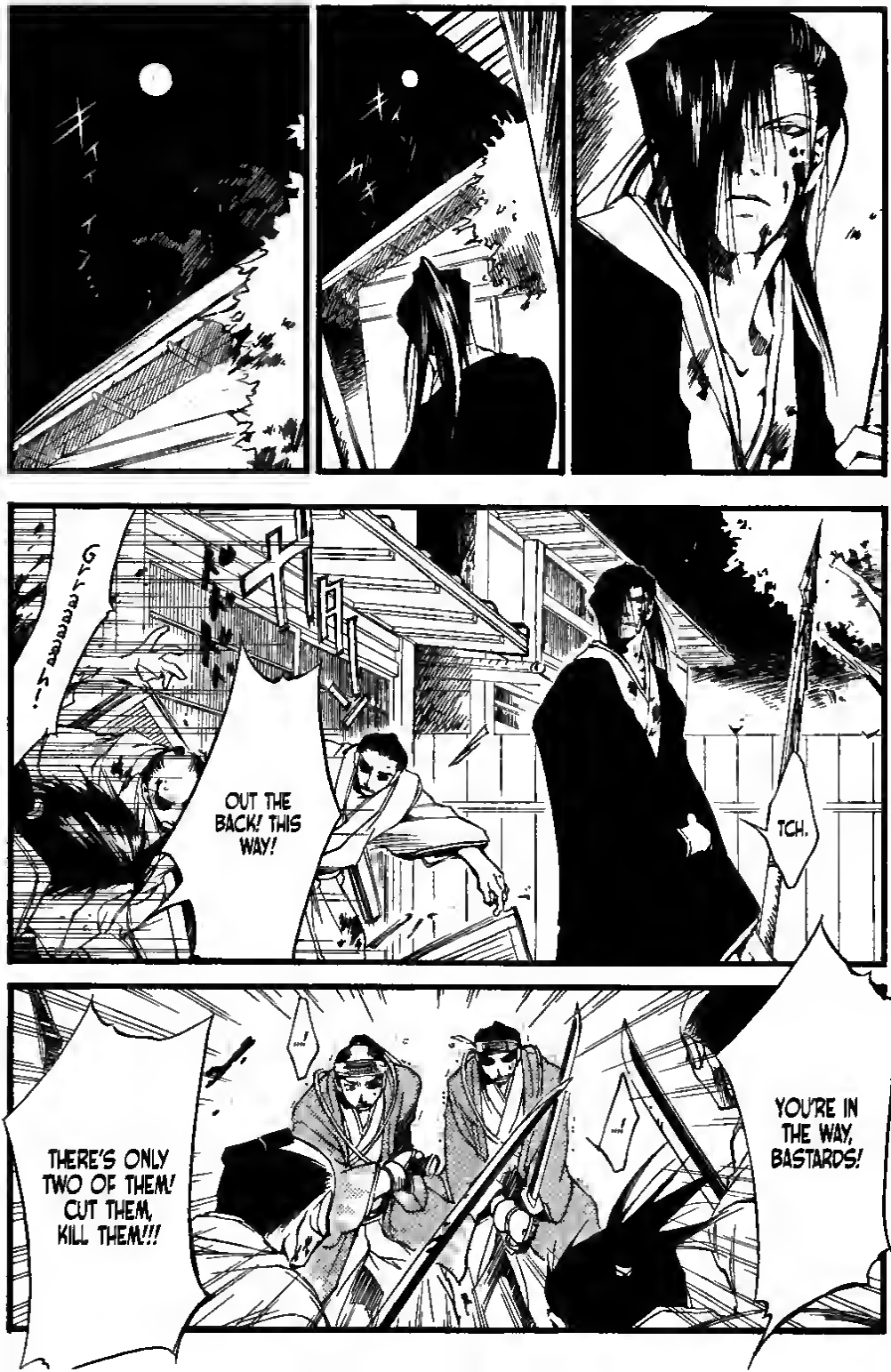
IF YOU DEFY US, WE WILL BREAK YOU.

ううぅぅ…
ううぅぅ…
ううぅぅ…

!!
YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!
STRIKE THE LEGS FROM THEIR BODIES!
DON'T LET THE RUNNERS GET AWAY!

CUT THEM! CUT THEM DOWN!!!
YEAH!
?!!

...WHA...?!
WHAA
damn you!


GYAAAAAH!
OUT THE BACK! THIS WAY!
TCH.
...!
...!
THERE'S ONLY TWO OF THEM! CUT THEM, KILL THEM!!!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY, BASTARDS!

SPLURCH
MIYABE! MATSUDA!!
YOSHIDA-SENSEI?!
WE'VE SECURED THE EXIT! HURRY!
HIT THE EXITS! THIS IS A RETREAT!
NOT FOR ME!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH RUNNING AND HIDING!
IT'S JUST TWO OR THREE MANGY DOGS!
GYAAAAA!

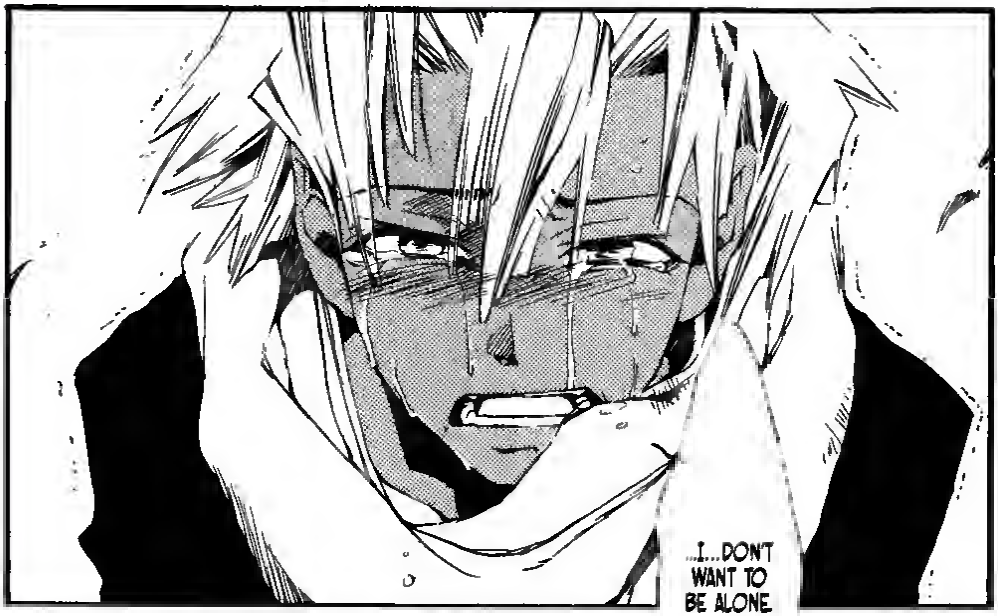
HEH HEH...
!!!
Waaaah!
CHING
SLASH
SENSEI!!

Huff
...
...
WHY ARE YOU HERE? YOU WERE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

I'LL FIGHT WITH YOU!
...I WON'T HIDE.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I DIE...
...IF I CAN TAKE DOWN ONE MIBU WOLF...
...AND SAVE OUR COMRADES!
I WANT TO BE USEFUL TO YOU!!
...

SENSE!!
SINCE YOU CAN'T STOP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH, SUZU...
...GO TO THE CHOUSHUU RESIDENCE AND TELL THEM WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS.
WHAT IS IT?
Don't let them get away!
waaah!
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU HURRY.
...
I...

IF I GO FOR REINFORCE-MENTS...
...EVEN IF WE CRUSH THE SHINSENGUMI ...
I DON'T BELONG ANY-WHERE...
...BUT BY YOUR SIDE.


...I...DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE

WELL, THEN...
...YOU'D BETTER HURRY BACK TO ME.
ダッ
...
YEAH
...

...
Gyaaaaah!

PLEASE WAIT FOR ME...
...SENSEI...

Act.25
A Hard Day's Night (Scene 2)

ヒキャアアン…
ピチャ…ン…
DRIP

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
WHAM
WELL THEN!

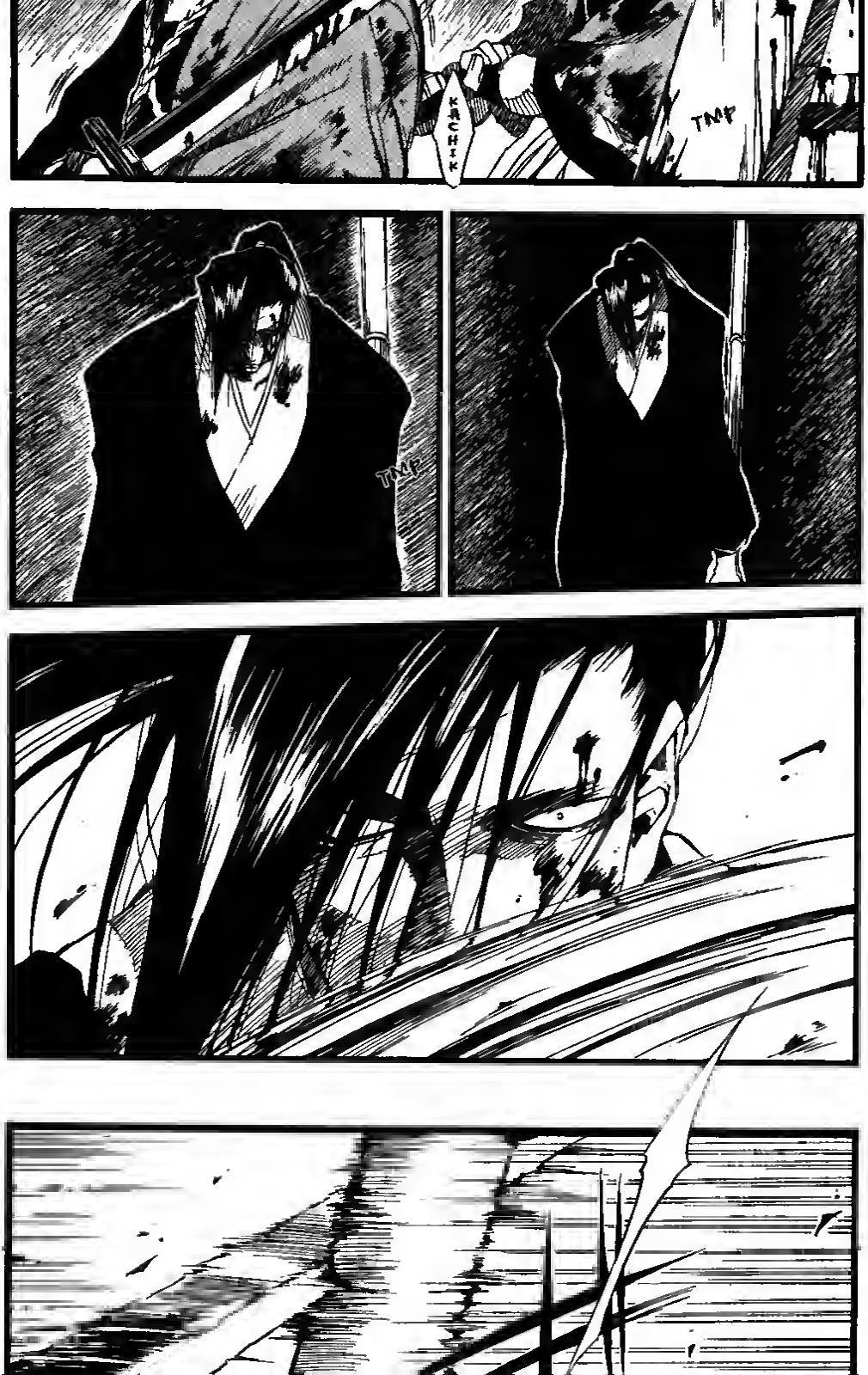
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T GET AWAY, CAN YOU?
YOU SUMMON ALL YOUR COURAGE...
...YET YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE A STEP.
!!!
WHA..?
DAMN KIDS!

ドリ
ゴッ
…
TMP
TMP
…

TMP

TMP

TMP

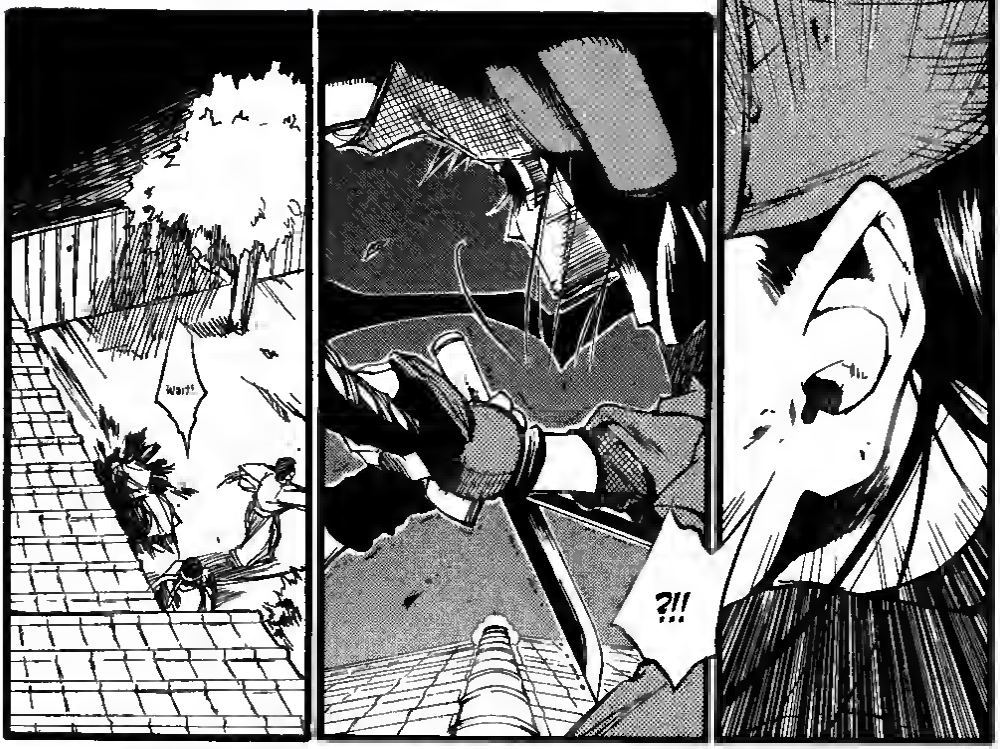

KACHIK
TMP
TMP

!!!
CLOSE!!!

HEISUKE !!!
WH- WHAT?!
HRRRGH...
...YAAH!!

Ha ha!
NOW THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY...
IT'S EASIER TO USE, ISN'T IT?
IDIOT! RUN!!
!!!

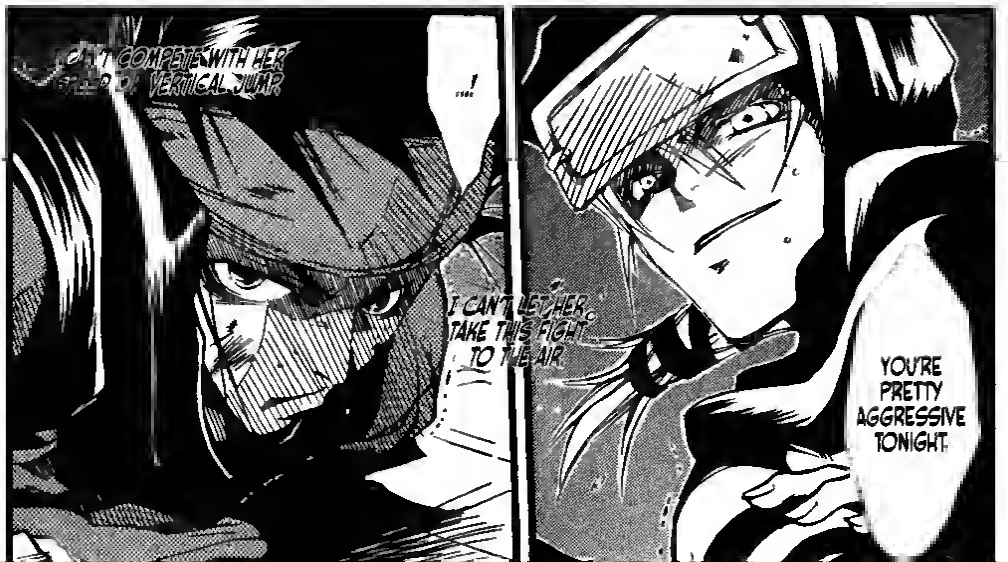
キサマこのヤロウ!!


Wait!!
?!!

HOW RUDE OF ME.
UGH.
LOOKING AWAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
!!
...

!!!
DAMN YOU...
GAH!

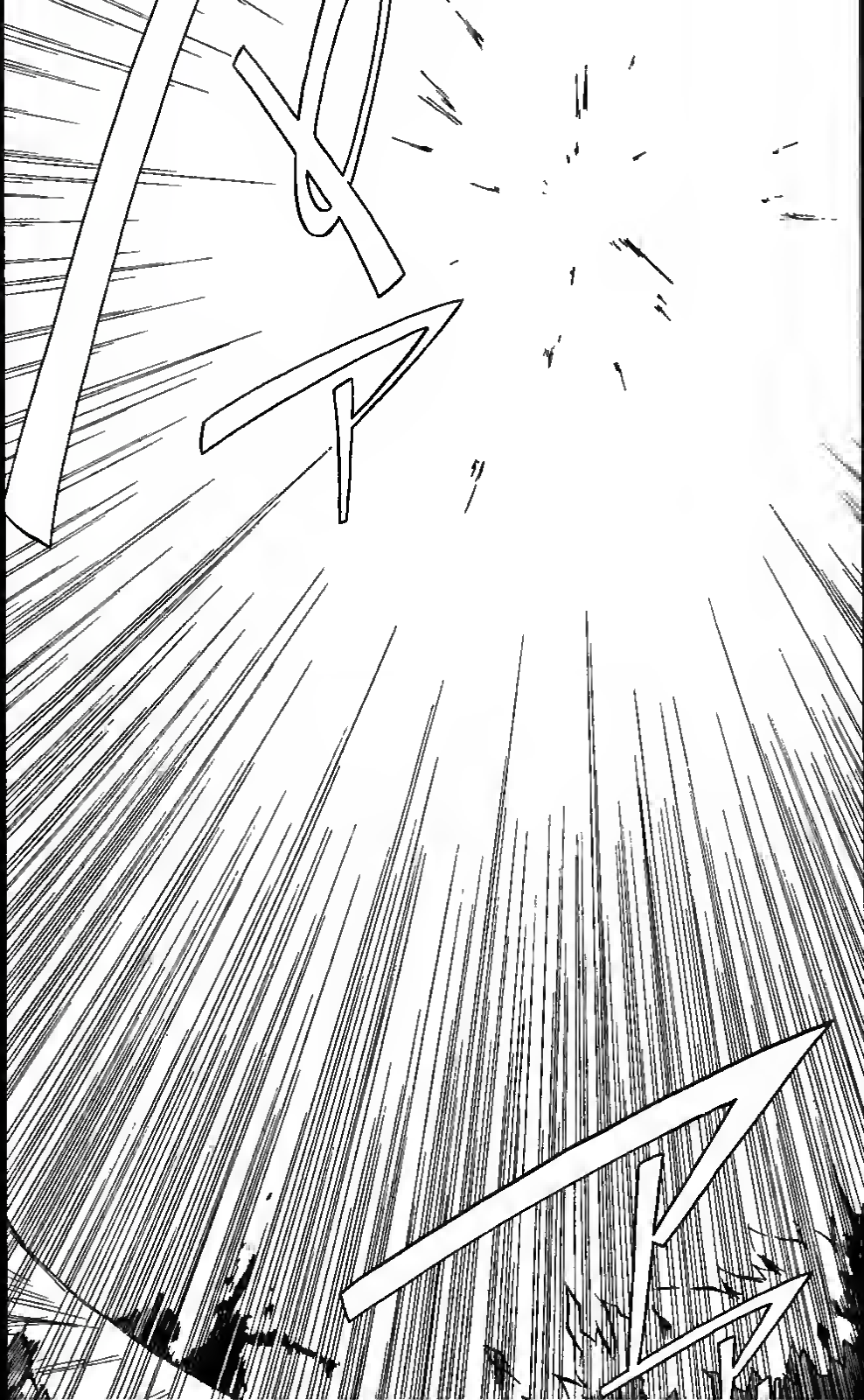
SHI--
WAIT!

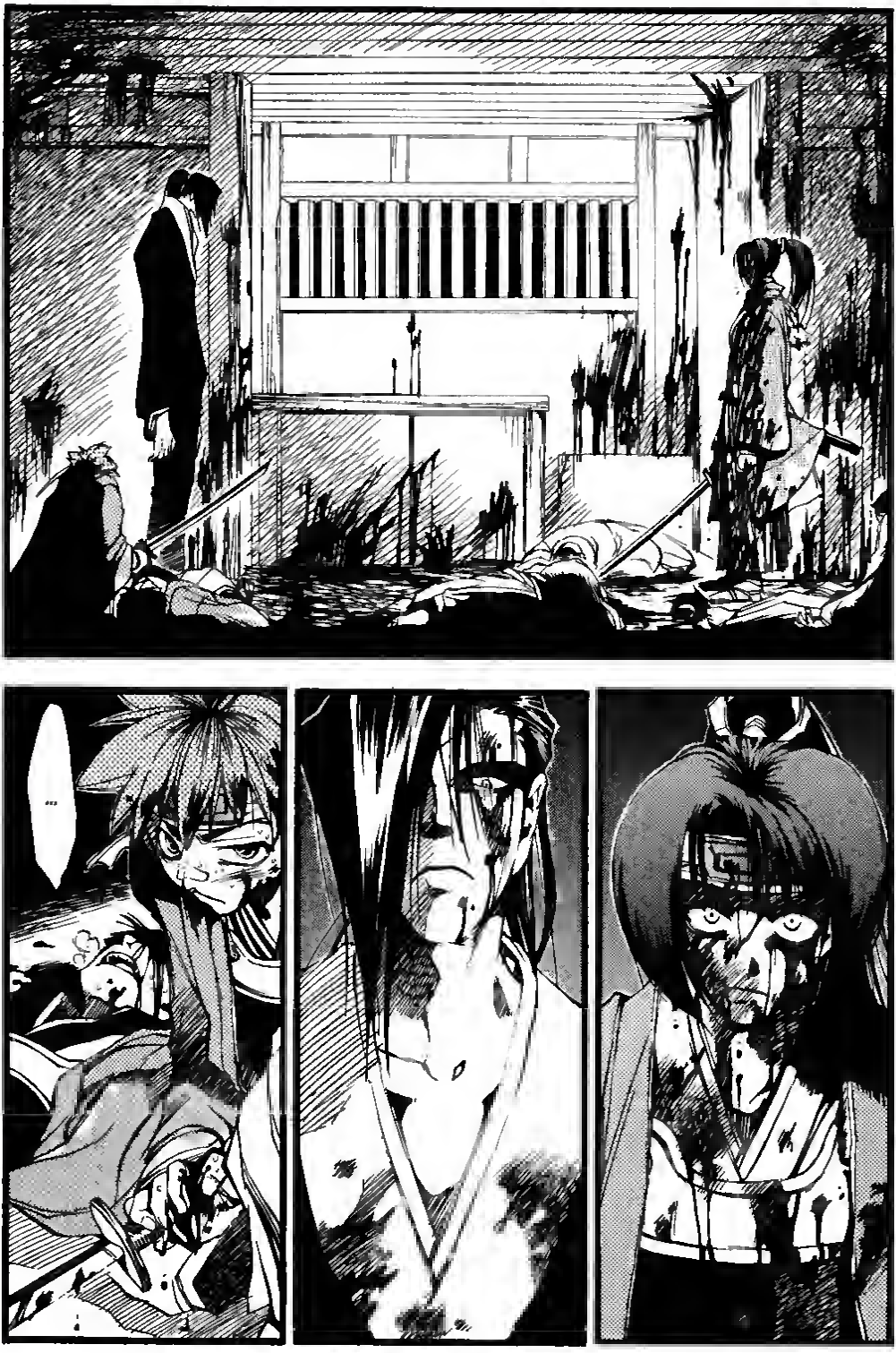

...!
I CAN'T LET HER TAKE THIS FIGHT TO THE AIR.
YOU'RE PRETTY AGGRESSIVE TONIGHT.

HYAH!
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
?!!

WHAT?!
WH--

?!
GOTTA MOVE!
NNGH...
HE'LL FINISH ME OFF...
AAAH...
...
GUH...





ひた…
カチャ…
ひた…
ドゥ

SHUNK
SHUNK

CLANG
CLANG

Amazing
...
ガラン!
カラ カラ…

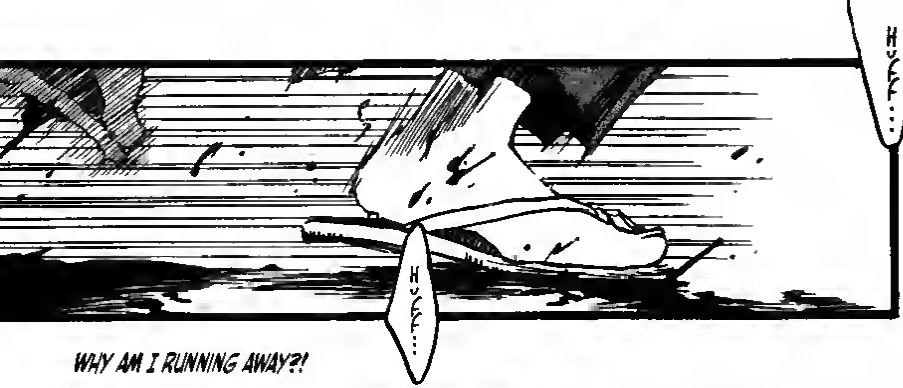
...OKITA-SAN?
AAAAAAAH?!!

Act.26
A Hard Day's Night (Scene 3)

HUFF...
HUFF...
...!!

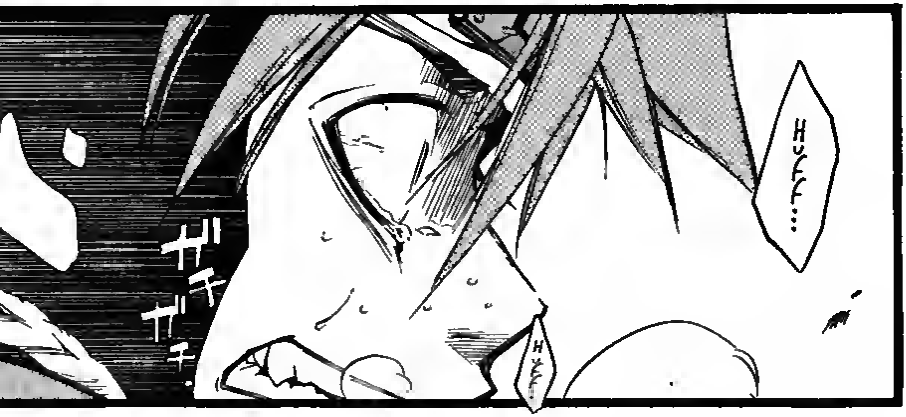
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TETSU?!
THAT MAN... IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.
HURRY UP! RUN!
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF..

DASH
GRAB
ずる…
...
...I'M...
...STILL ALIVE.

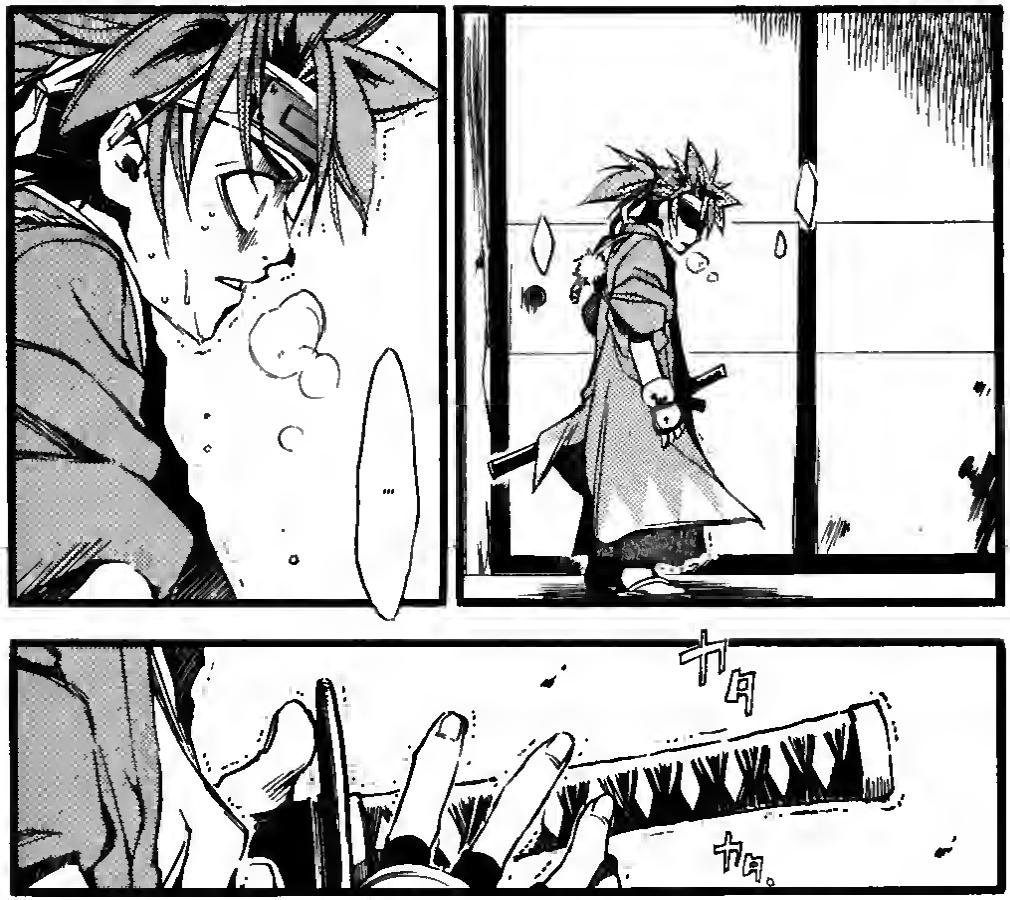


WHY AM I RUNNING AWAY?!

GO BACK! GO BACK!!

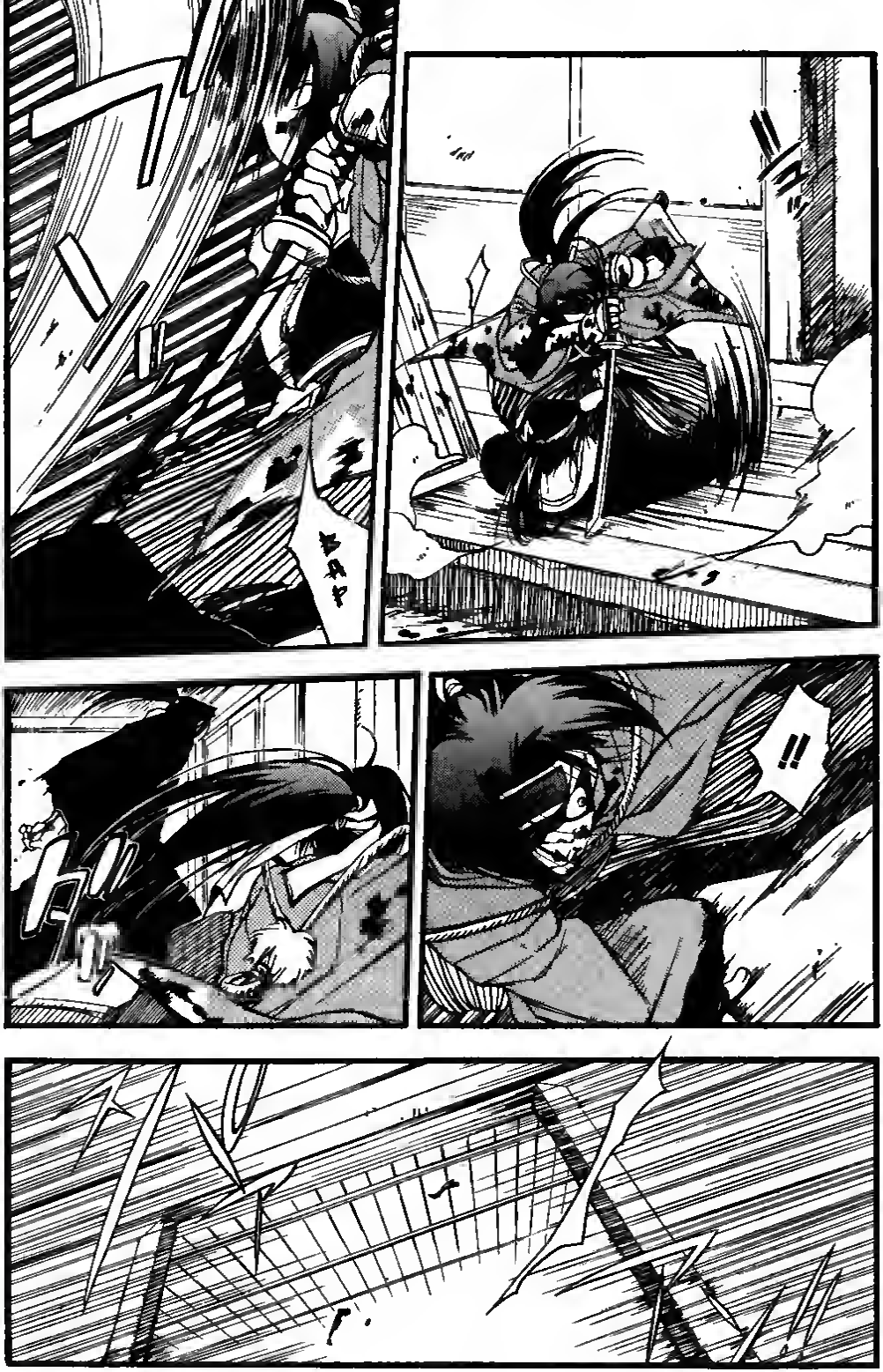


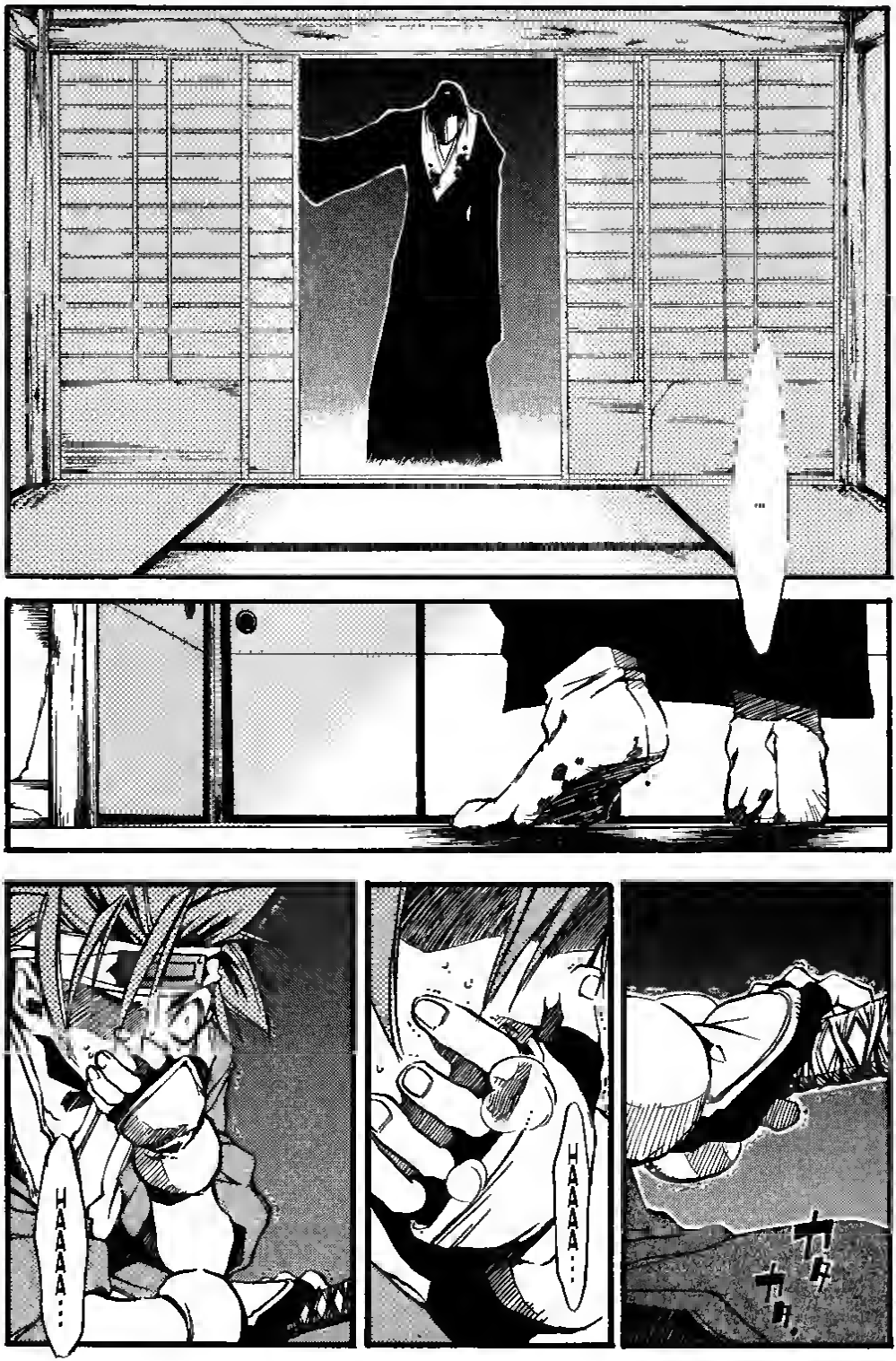
K GO BACK GO BACK GO BACK GO BACK GO BACK GO BACK GO BACK GO BACK GO

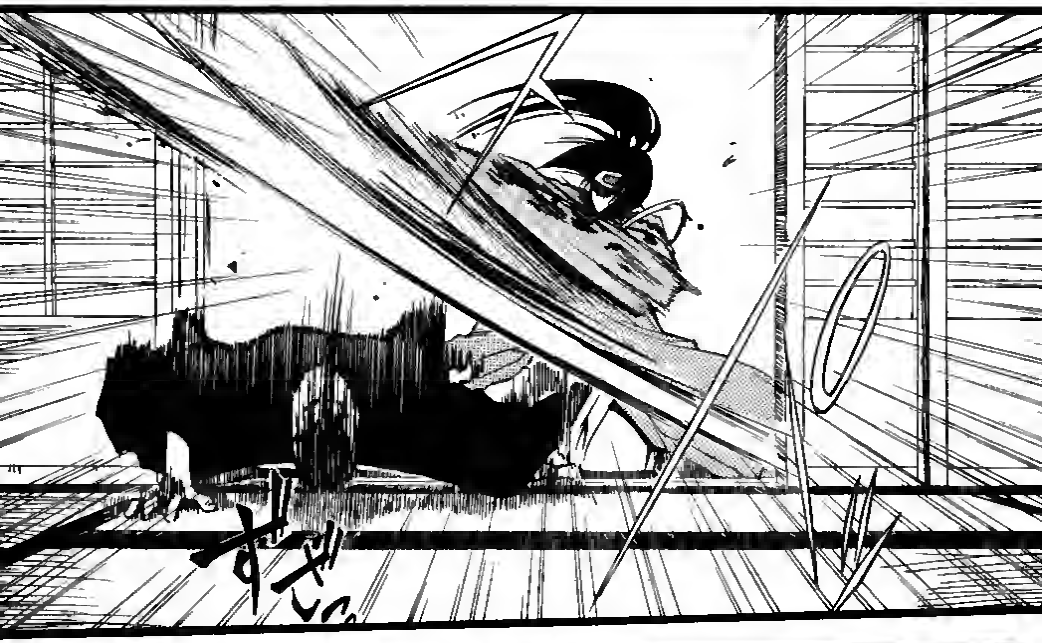


PLEASE GO BACK.

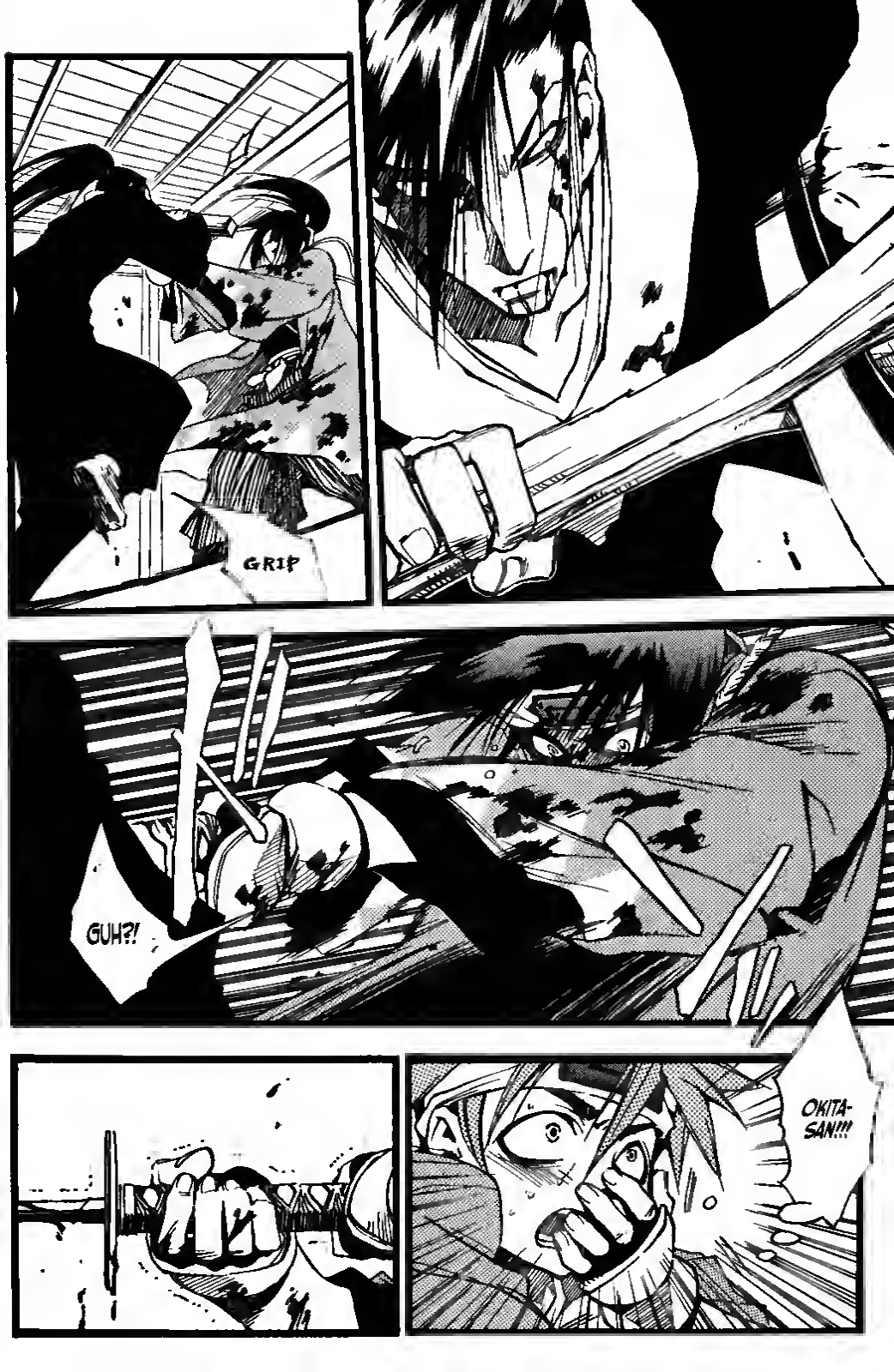
ドガ
ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…

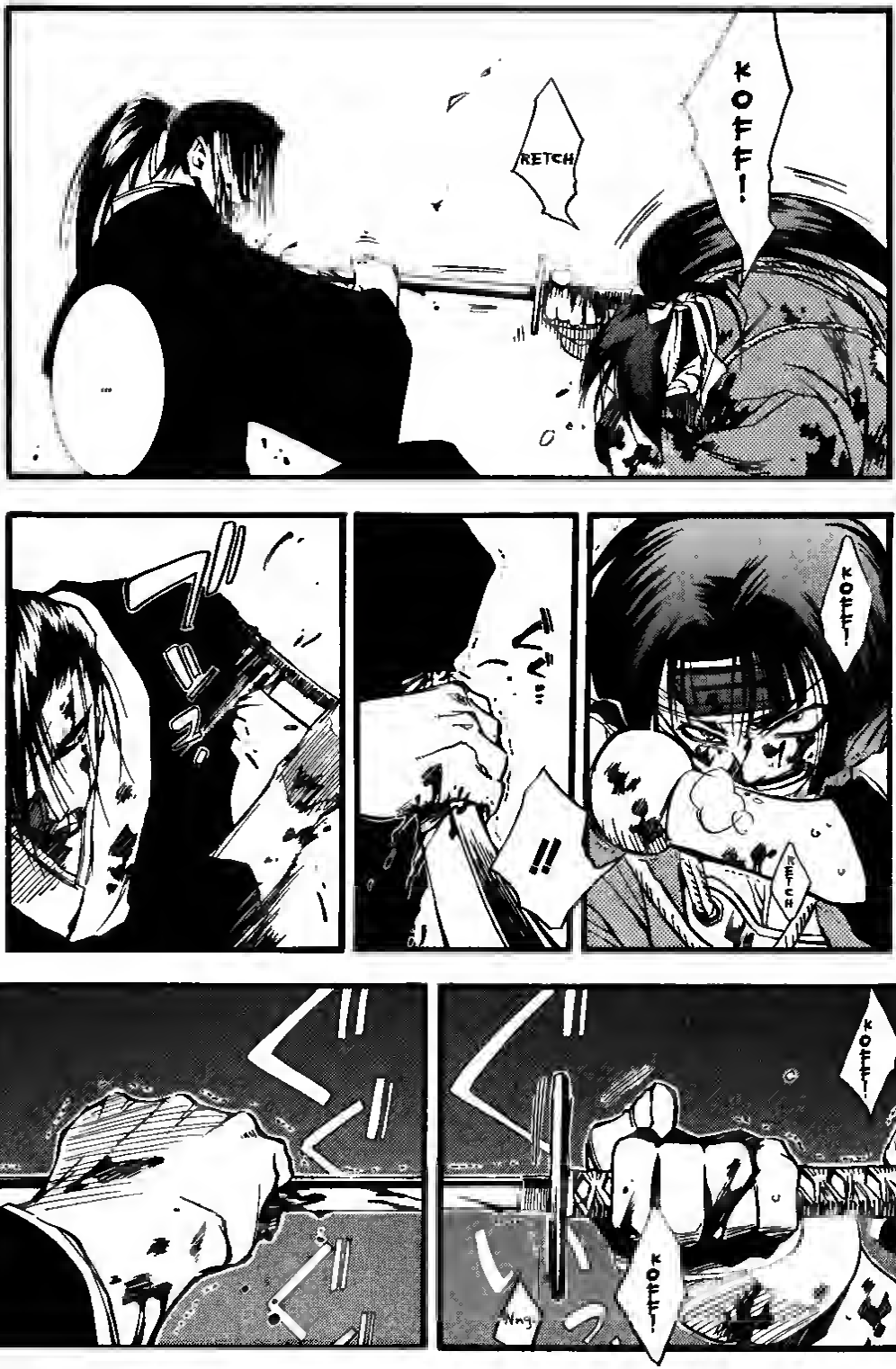

ドカッ
!!


...
HAAAA...
HAAAA...
カタ
カタ



!!
WHAT?


GRIP
GUH?!
OKITA-SAN!!!

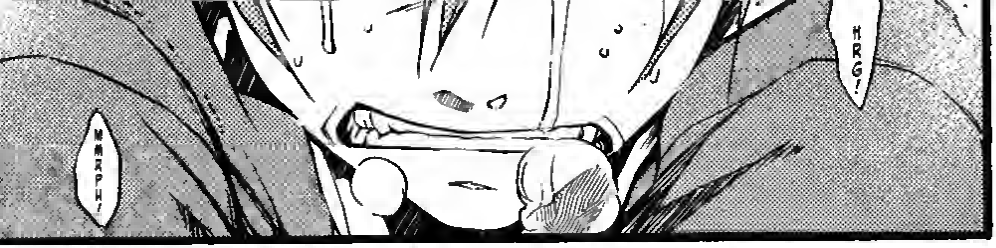

KOFF!
RETCH
...
KOFF!
!!
KOFF!
RETCH
KOFF!
KOFF!

...AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
KOFF!
...GUH...
...UGH.
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
ドンッ!
...

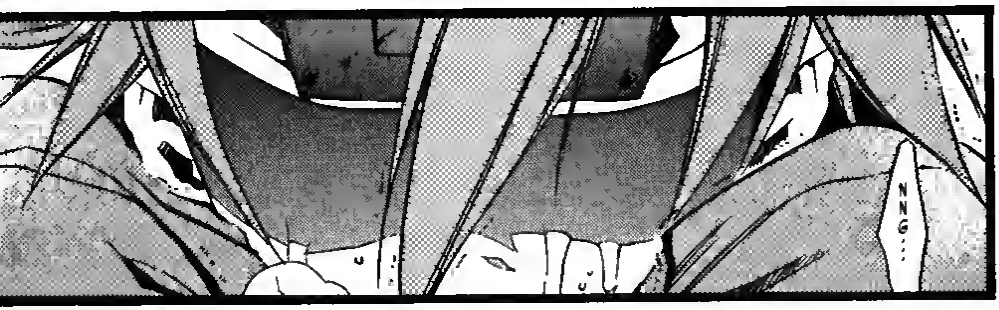
ハァァ…
ハァァ…
ハァァ…
ハァァ…

!
!!!
!
KOFF!
UH...
NNGH...
KOFF!
Uch

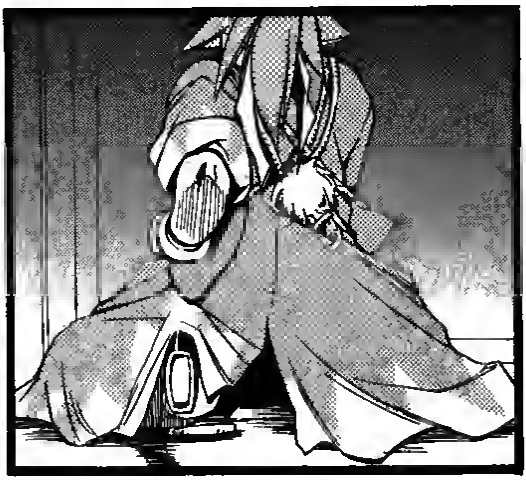
キ
KOFF!
KOFF!
みし
KOFF!
KOFF!
みし
ズン
ズン



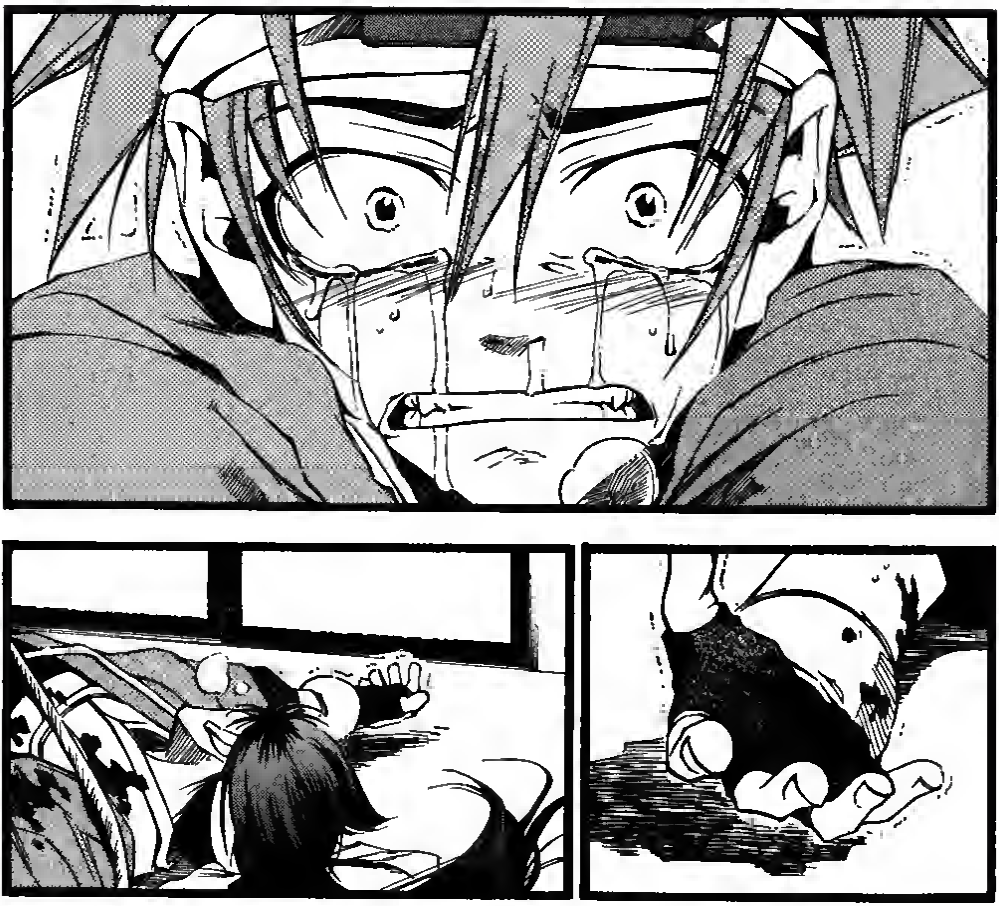
I'M SO SORRY.

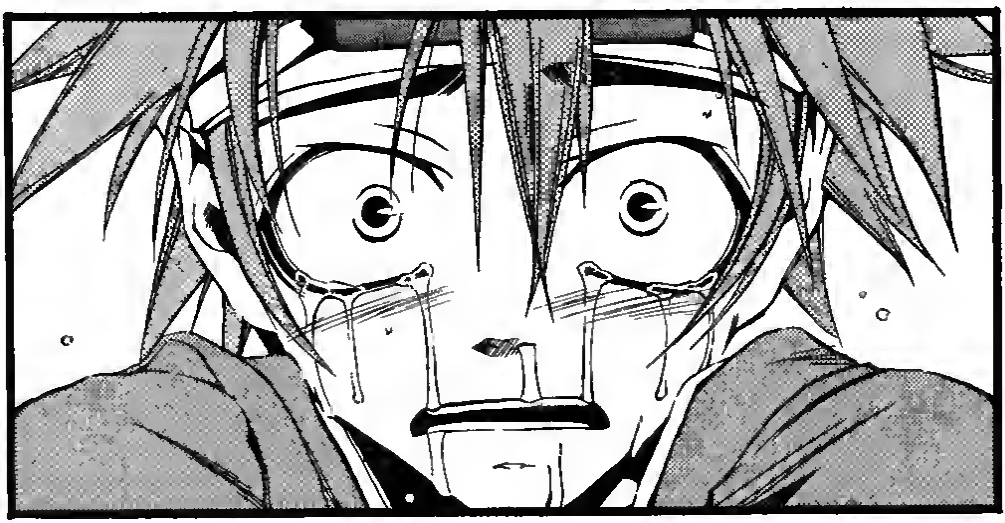


I'M SO SORRY.



I NEED MORE...





...MORE...

ボタ
ボタ
…
HMM…
HMM…
ボタ
ボタ
ボタ

!!
GU..UH!!
KOEE!
KOEE!
KOEE!

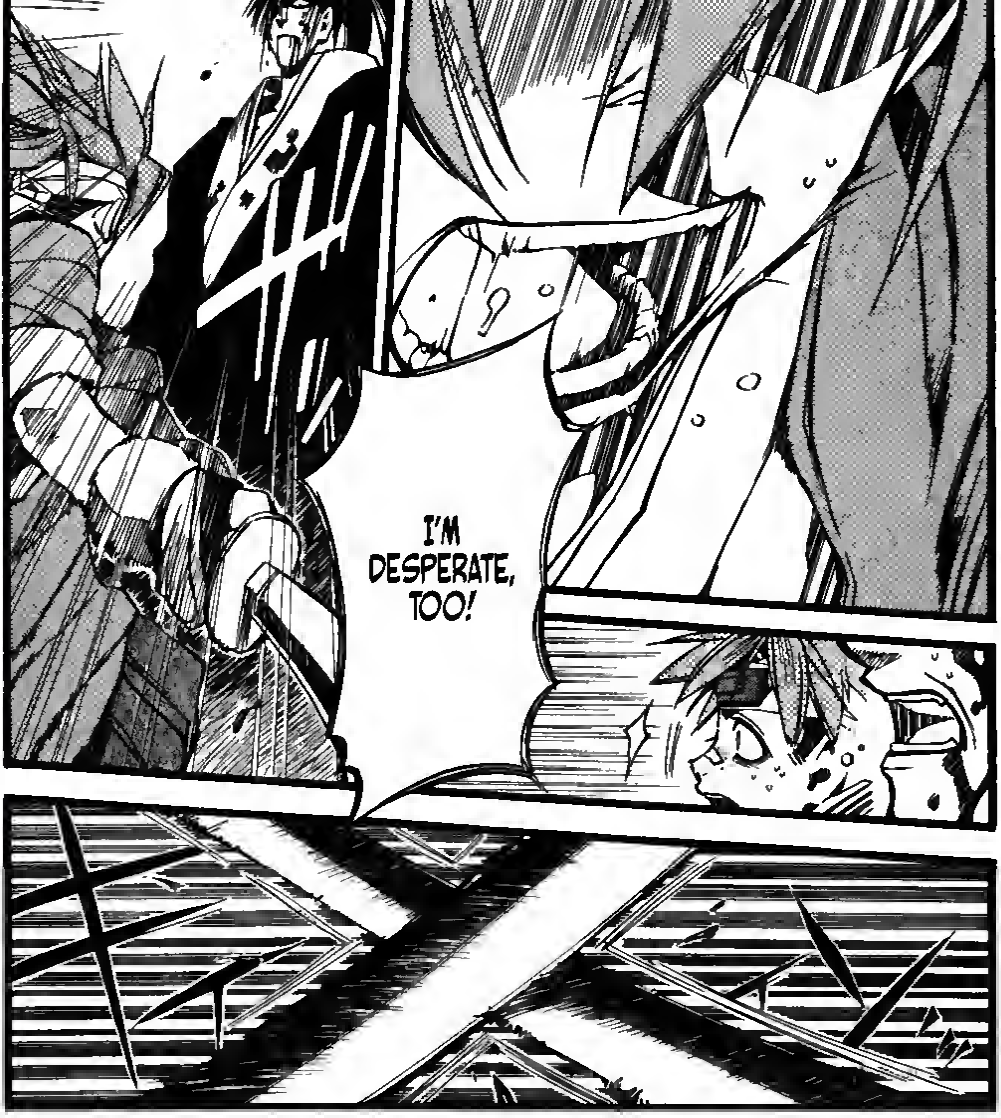
OKITA-SAN...
...I'VE MISUNDER-STOOD ALL THIS TIME...
...I...
...WANTED TO GET STRONG...

...AND NOT...
...KILL.

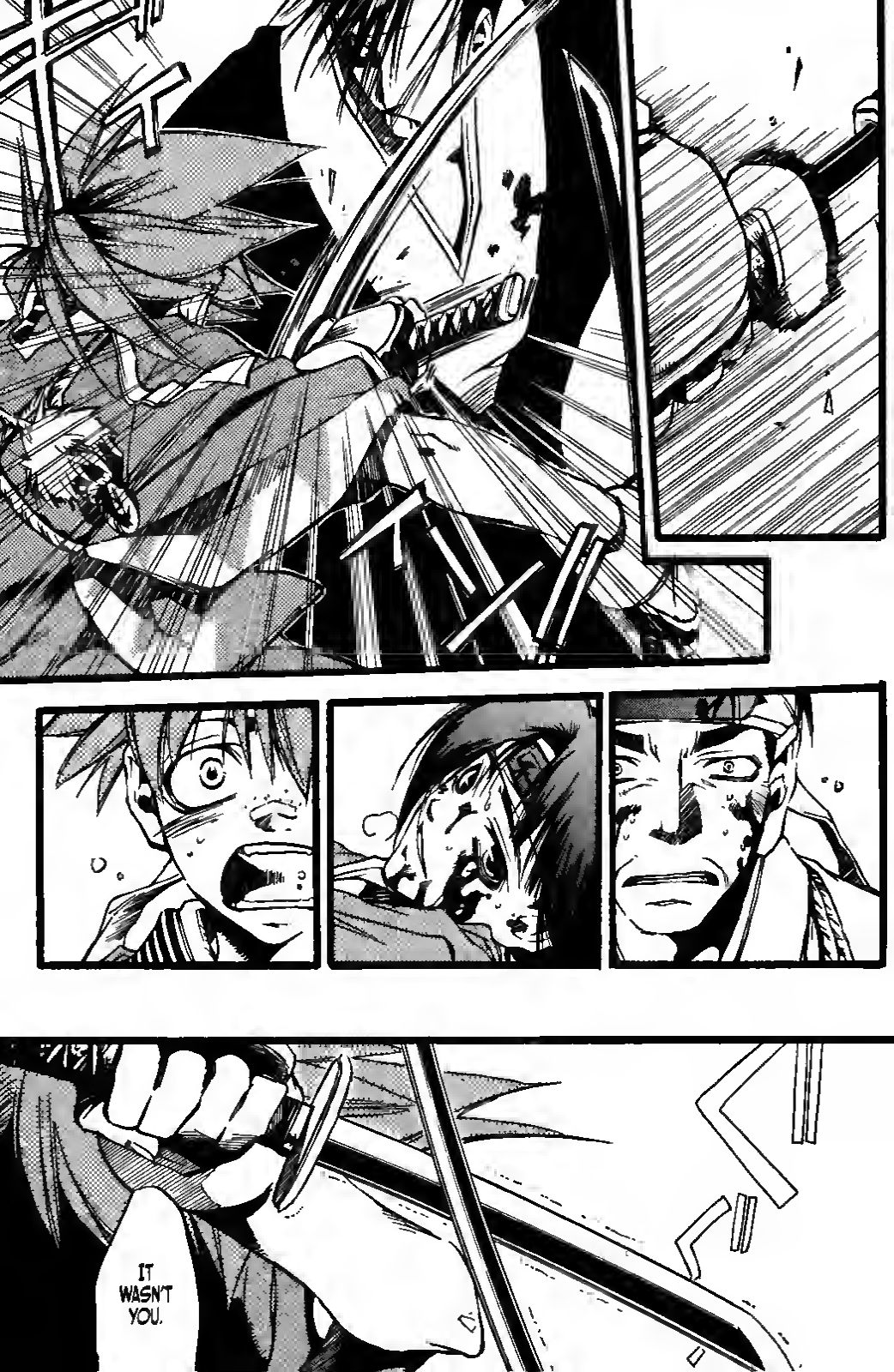
!
HH
DD!
TETSU-KUN....
I'M DONE...
...LETTING PEOPLE DIE.

NAGAKURA! HOW'S YOUR PART GOING? EVERYTHING ALL CLEANED OUT?!
KONDOU-SAN, BIG TROUBLE!
TETSUNOSUKE IS...
AAAH...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

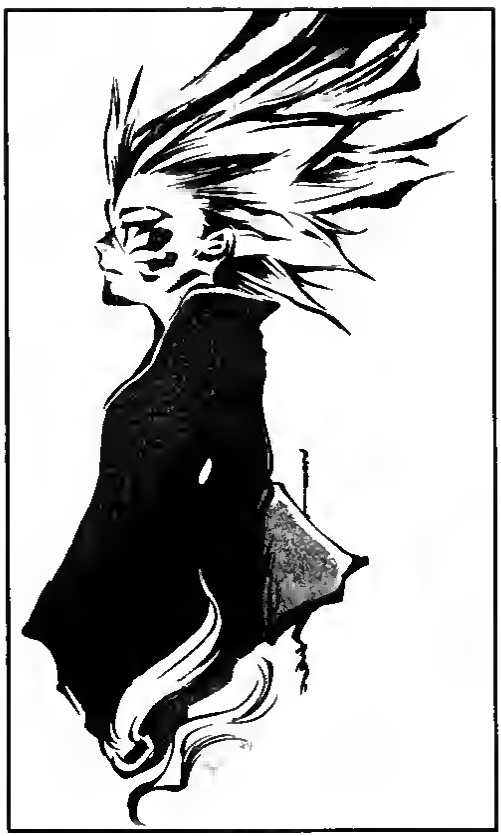
I TOLD YOU, HE'S TOO STRONG, TETSU!!!
WHY IS HE HERE?!
HE'S DESPERATE!


I'M DESPERATE, TOO!

CLANG


IT WASN'T YOU.

...THE ONE I WANTED TO KILL...
...THE ONE I'VE HATED...
ALL THIS TIME...
...WAS THE HELPLESS BOY--ME!



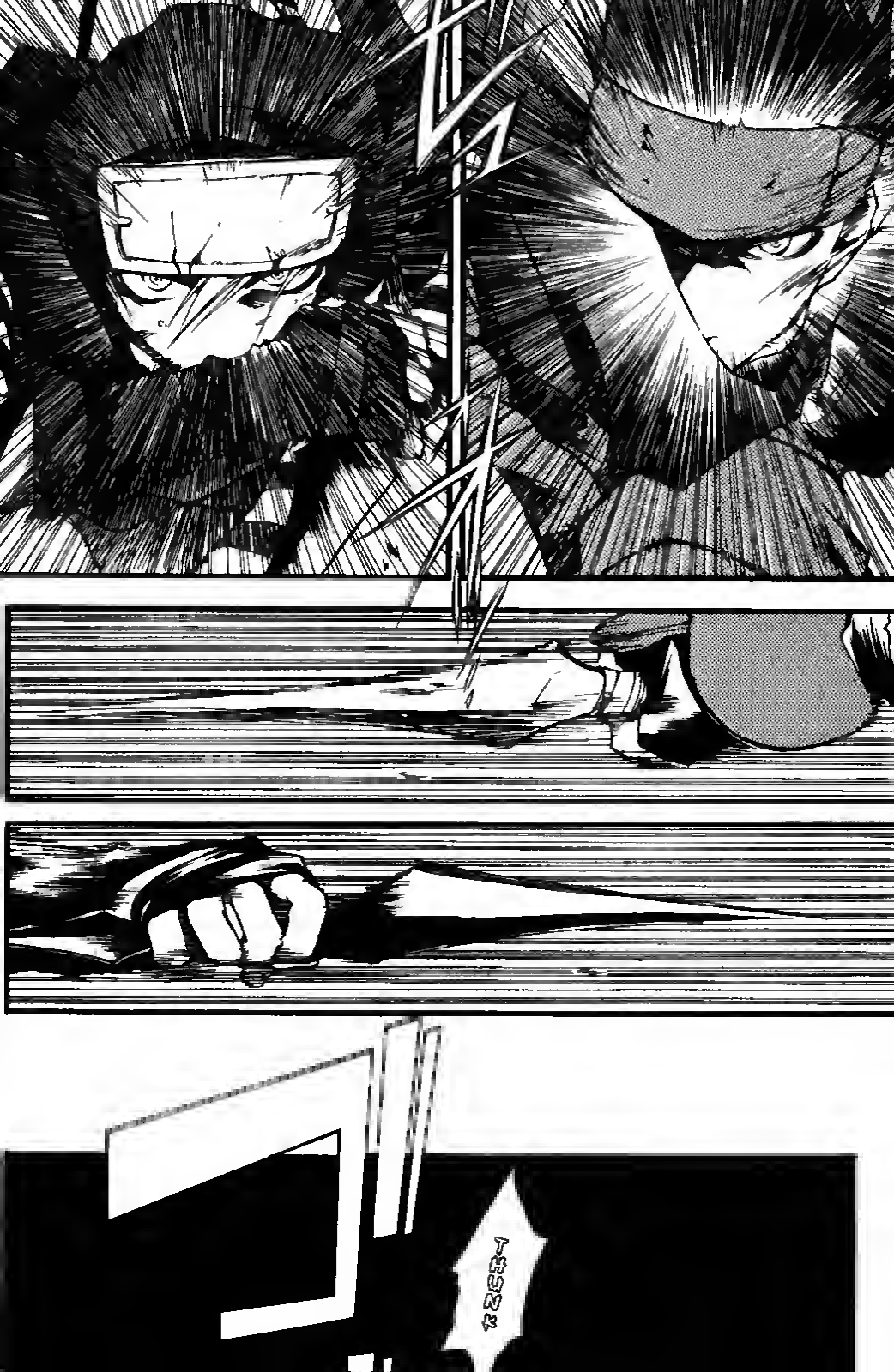
DAMN IT!
THIS PISSES ME OFF! WE'VE GOT ALL THESE GUYS HERE AND WE'RE NOT GETTING PULLED IN.
HURRY UP!
WHAT'S THE POINT IN WORRYING...
...SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE FACING?

Act.27
A Hard Day's Night (Scene 4)

!!
?!
Kya!
BAM

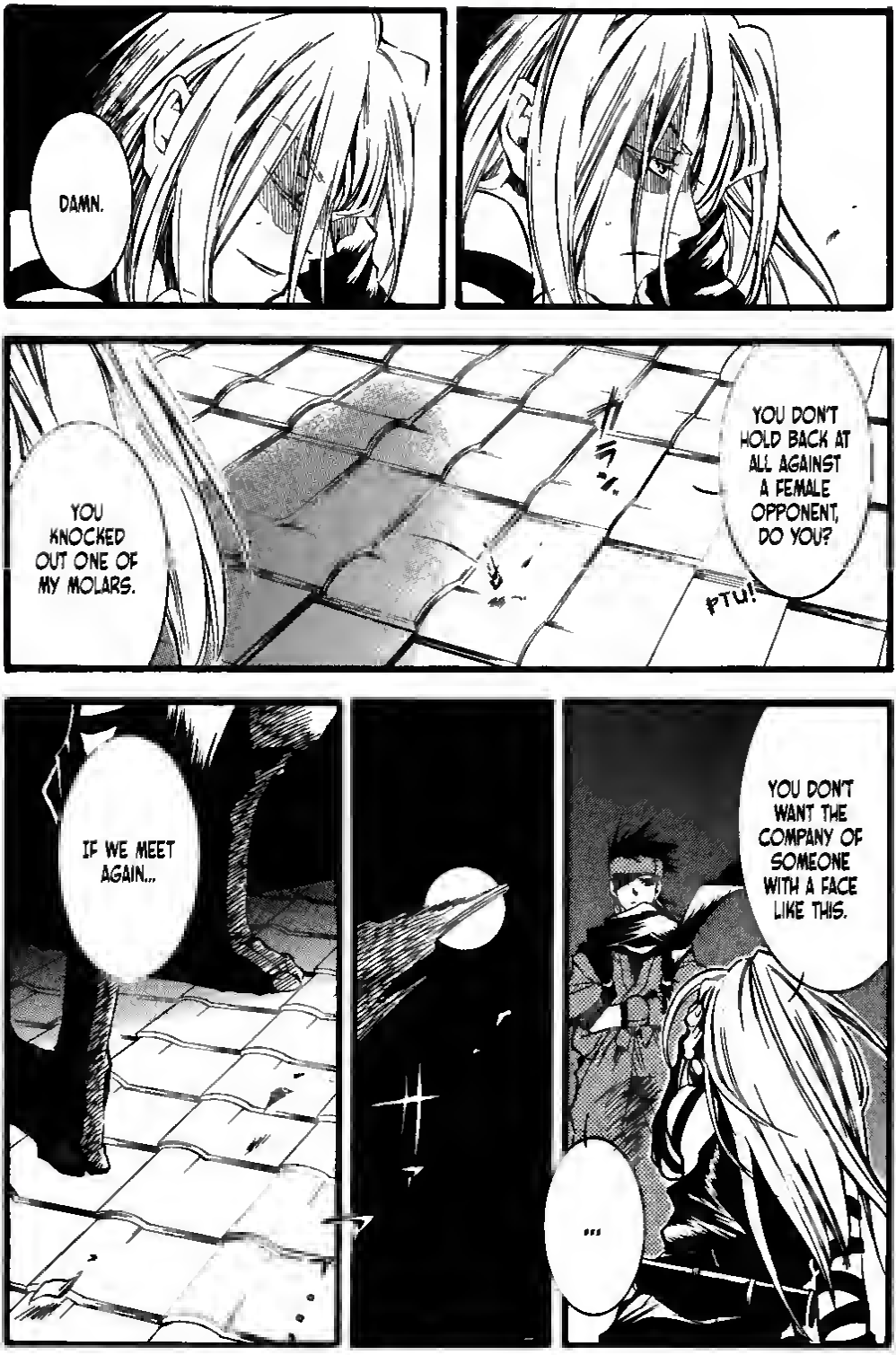
DAMN. THE HEAD AGAIN..!
UUUGH...
PTU!
Guh.
誠

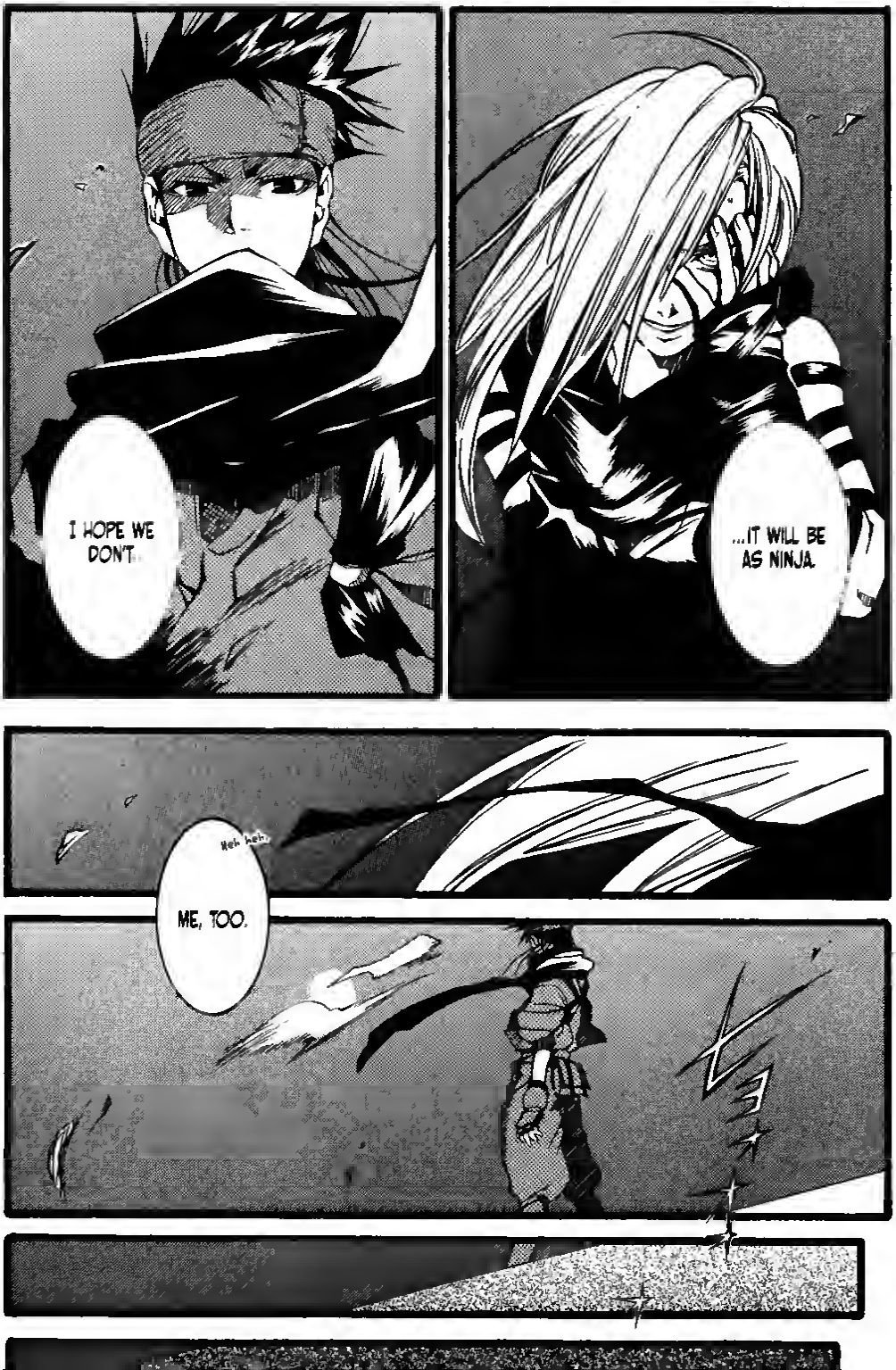
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE ARRIVED.
...
SWISH
GRIP


ｼｭﾊﾝ

KLANG
CRATER

IMPOSSIBLE... A BARBARIAN NINJA?
...
BLONDE...
WHY DON'T YOU KILL ME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHY NOT AIM FOR THE MAJOR ORGANS?


DAMN.
YOU KNOCKED OUT ONE OF MY MOLARS.
YOU DON'T HOLD BACK AT ALL AGAINST A FEMALE OPPONENT, DO YOU?
PTU!
IF WE MEET AGAIN...
YOU DON'T WANT THE COMPANY OF SOMEONE WITH A FACE LIKE THIS.
...


I HOPE WE DON'T.
...IT WILL BE AS NINJA.
Heh heh.
ME, TOO.

KATSURA-SAN!!
CHOUSHUU DOMAIN RESIDENCE
I'M BEGGING YOU HELP ME!!
HURRY! HURRY! PLEASE OPEN THE GATE!
CAN YOU HEAR ME IN THERE?!
CAN YOU...?!

IF ONLY YOU'D COME OUT...!!
THERE ARE ONLY FOUR SOLDIERS AT IKEDAYA!
IF WE COMBINE OUR POWER WE CAN MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN...
PLEASE...!
PLEASE...

DAMN!!!
...CH.
ALL YOUR ALLIES ARE FIGHTING!
DO THE WOLVES OF MIBU FRIGHTEN YOU THAT MUCH?!
HOW CAN YOU SAY, "REVERE THE EMPEROR, EXPEL THE BARBARIANS" WITHOUT SHAME OF YOUR OWN COWARDICE?!
LIKE THIS...
...UGH...
...NN...

IF THINGS GO LIKE THIS...
PLEASE...
...I BEG YOU...
IF THINGS GO LIKE THIS...
.. ON EARTH.. AND IN HEAVEN
DON'T KILL HIM!

H--
HRRGH...

GUH!

UOOOOOOH!!
PLEASE WAIT!
THAT BASTARD JUST WON'T DIE!!
TETSU?!

DON'T HELP HIM.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SOUJI?!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
...BECAUSE THAT CHILD WILL WIN.
BUT THE PROBLEM ISN'T WHETHER HE'LL WIN OR LOSE.

オオオオ
オオ
オオ
WHAT CAN HE DO WITH ONE RIGHT ARM?
HE CAN'T WALK... AT MOST HE CAN ONLY STAND.
YOSHIDA'S ARMS AND LEGS HAVE HAD IT.

TETSUNO-SUKE ISN'T SLOW!

NOT YET...
CLANG CLANG
BAM
NOT YET...

HRRGH...
DAMN.
UOOOH!
NOT YET...

TE...?!
TETSUUUU!!!
...
NOW.

GUH...
ひゃああああ!!
NO WAY...
AAAAH!

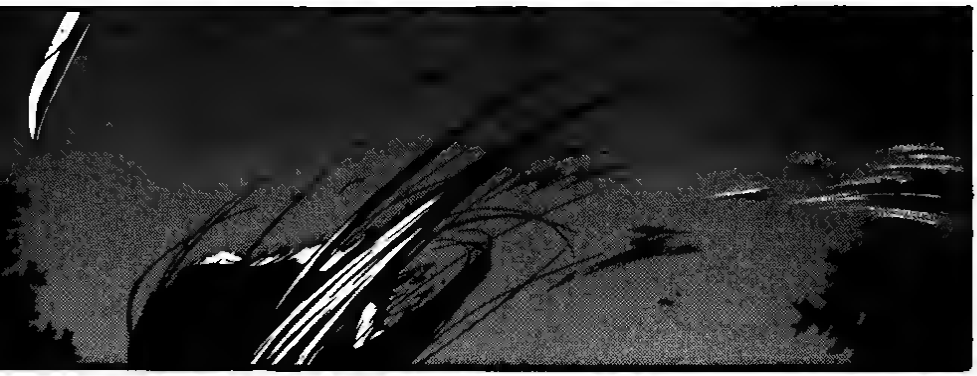
HUFF...
HUFF!
HUFF...
HUFF...
NNNGH...
GOH...
...DON'T YOU?
YOU HAVE TO USE ALL FOUR LIMBS...
HE WON...
...DIDN'T HE?
HE DELIVERED A HELL OF A WOUND!
?!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME NOW?
WHY DID YOU LET ME LIVE?
TWO YEARS AGO...
...WHERE I WAS HIDING BEHIND MY FATHER.
JUST LIKE TWO YEARS AGO... JUST LIKE TODAY...YOU HAD TO HAVE NOTICED...
ANSWER ME!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EH...
BI

HA…
H…
HA…
HA…
HA…
!!
ビッ

...HE'LL KILL ME.
IF I DON'T KILL HIM...
SLIP



YOU TOLD ME DIDN'T YOU?
YOU TOLD ME YOU DON'T WANT ME TO KILL.

YOU HAVE TO PROTECT THAT PROMISE.

RIGHT?

Act.28
A Hard Day's Night (Final Scene)

YOU GUYS...!
...
Ah
WHAT?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

OH, NO.
YOU GUYS...
GOING OUT THERE AND GETTING HURT...!
OW! Ow, ow ow ow!
IF YOU'D DIED I WOULD'VE KILLED YOU!
CAPTAIN! TOUDOU-SENSEI IS DYING, CAPTAIN!!
I'M TELLING YOU, LET ME GO!
OWW!
!

I AM SAKON KASUYA, SOLDIER OF THE AIZU DOMAIN.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE DONE A SPLENDID JOB.
KATAMORI-SAMA WILL BE VERY PLEASED.
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE FROM AIZU DOMAIN!
AAH? WHAT DO YOU WANT N--?
M-mph!
WE WON'T MIND IF THE SHINSENGUMI TAKE A WITHDRAWAL NOW.
TOO BAD YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY--

WE WERE DELAYED BY SHOSHI...
...BUT NOW THAT WE'VE ARRIVED, SECURITY IS GUARANTEED!
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE BREAKING IN!
D-D-D-D--
DON'T SCREW AROUND, TAKING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR YOUR OWN!
NOW, NOW.
EVEN IF WE DON'T MAKE A FUSS...
...WE'VE STILL GOT OUR CHARM AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS.

HIJIKATA-DONO, PLEASE LEAVE THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS PLACE TO US...
HI--
I'M THANKFUL FOR THE REINFORCE-MENTS...
...BUT ASIDE FROM MOPPING UP THE BLOOD, THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO HERE.
ER, REGARDLESS... PLEASE LEAVE THIS AREA TO AIZU AND KUWANA!
WE'RE ASKING YOU TO WITHDRAW.
Doh...

IF THAT MANY PEOPLE COME BARGING IN HERE...
...THEY'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.
KO ...
...KONDOU-DONO.
I'M SAVED!
IT'S RUDE TO THE PEOPLE OF AIZU.
HEY, TOSHI, YOU'RE TOO HARSH ON THEM.
ボロ

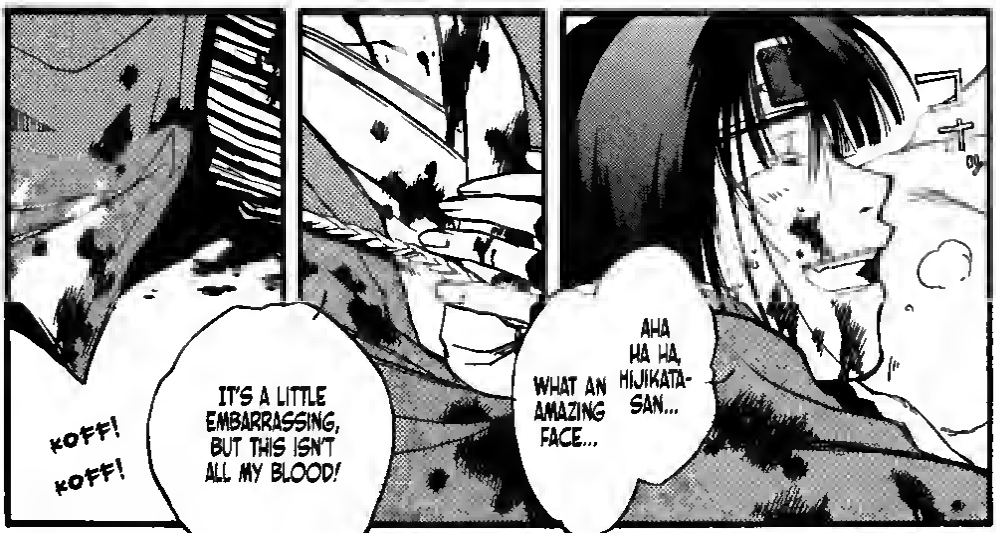
いやはや
Black like a bloody yakuza blade.
...WE'RE GOING TO BE CONFIRMING THE ROUSHI HERE, SO COULD YOU CLEAR THE AREA PLEASE?
AH, WE'RE REALLY SORRY, BUT...
...
PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
PLEASE. NOW. BEFORE YOU SOIL YOUR CLOTHING
べたー
...
...
...LET'S GO.

LEAVE IT TO ME.
YOU WON'T BE PUNISHED FOR THAT.
Maybe I said too much?
WE'RE GETTING THEIR FULL NAMES.
HA HA HA, TOSHI.
A TATAMI ROOM FACING THE BACK GARDEN.
HURRY AND GO.
...
EXCUSE ME.

Koff!
Koff!
Koff!
Ng.
Koff!
!!

KOFF!
...
KOFF!
HIJIKATA-SA--
KOFF!
KOFF!

!!
YOU MUSN'T, VICE COMMANDER.
UGH!
ARE YOU COUGHING UP--?
SOUJI!
YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE HIM.
KOFF!


KOFF! KOFF!
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING, BUT THIS ISN'T ALL MY BLOOD!
WHAT AN AMAZING FACE...
AHA HA HA, HIJIKATA-SAN...

...
IN ANY CASE, THE MEDICINE...
HEY!
Y-YES!
BRING SOME TEA. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S CHEAP!
HURRY!
YES!
THAT'S NOT ALL, IS IT?
KOFF!
YES.

HERE.

...
SOUJI.
NOE?
NOE?
GULP
NOE?
GULP

!
...
THE FIRST TIME YOU BRING ME TEA IS ON A BATTLEFIELD.
コト。
AND THE TEA YOU BRING IS WEAK AND LUKEWARM.

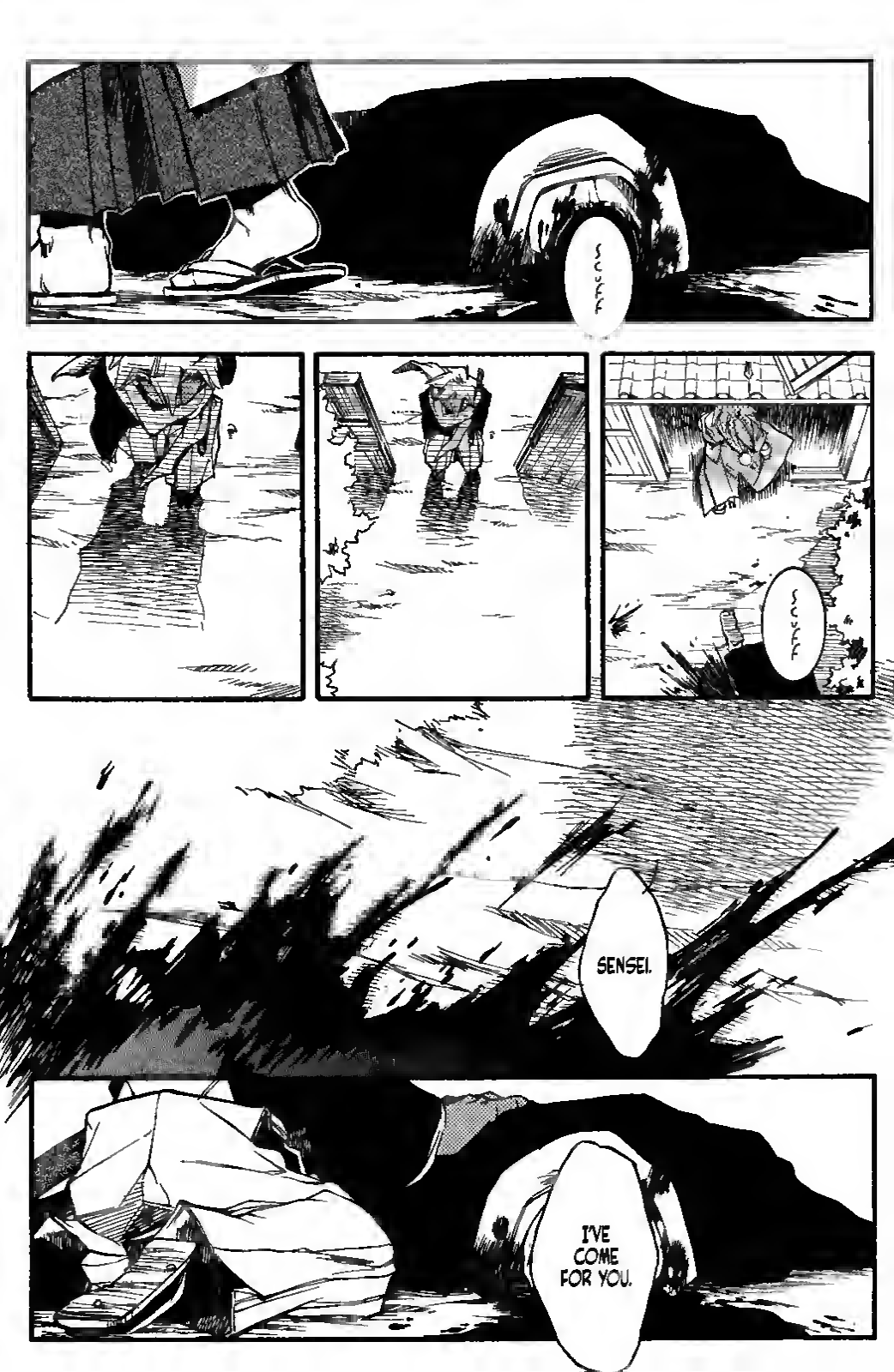
...
THIS IS YOUR FIRST ACT AS MY PAGE.

NOW CAN YOU STAND, SOUJI?
YES.
...
EVERYONE ASSEMBLE AT THE FRONT.
YES!
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, HIJIKATA-SAN.
scratch
scratch
HMM... AHH...
ICHI-MURA !!
DON'T JUST SIT THERE! CLEAN IT UP AND GET MOVING!
Y-
YES!

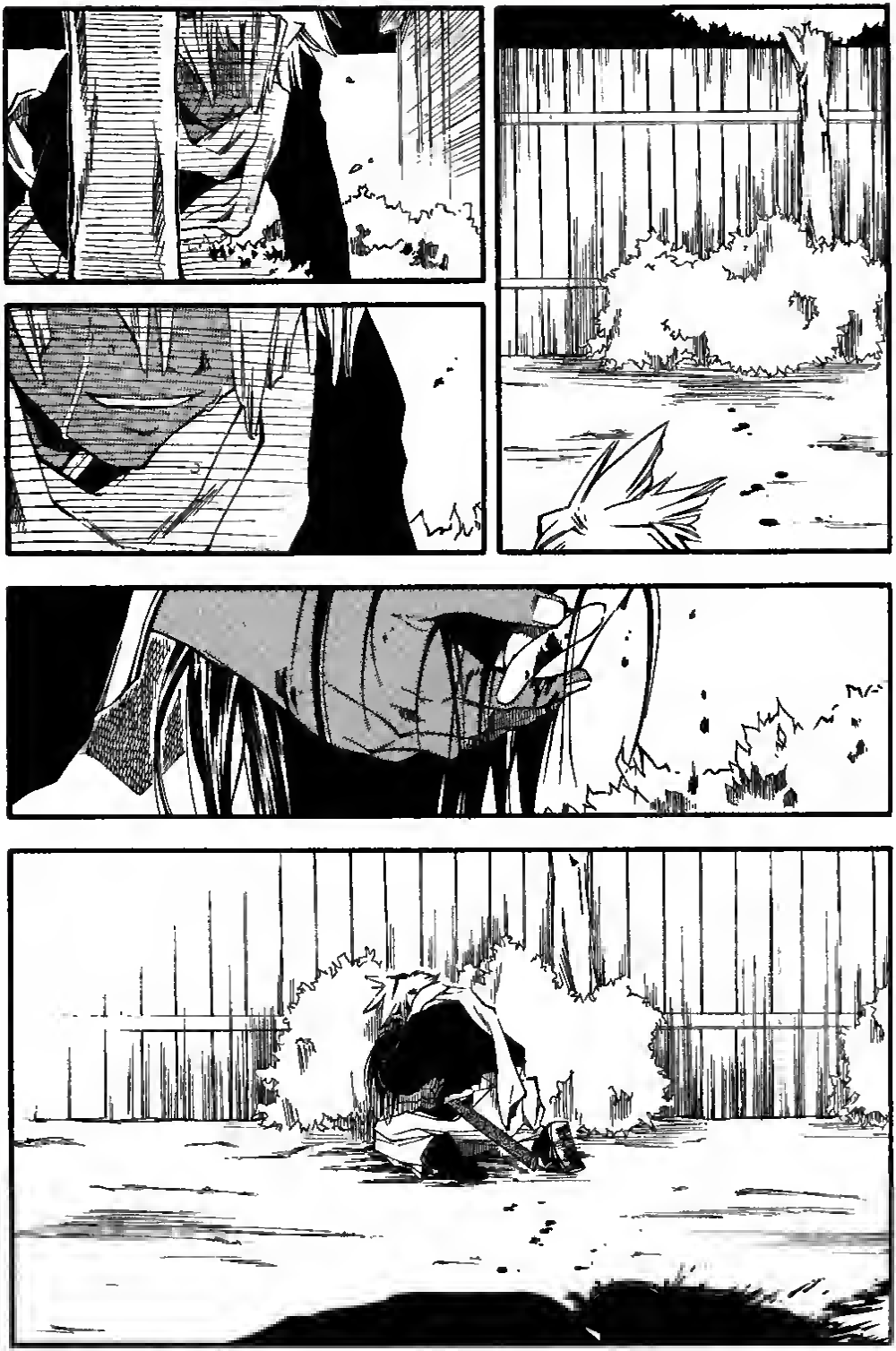
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Scuff

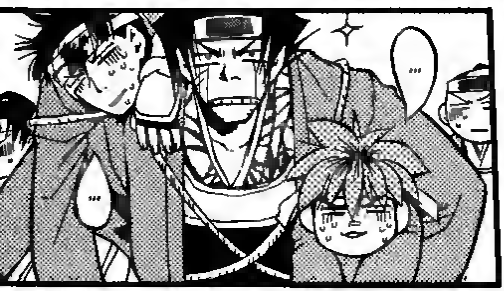
Scuff
Scuff
Scuff

…
ちぇっ…


SCUFF
SCUFF
SENSEI.
I'VE COME FOR YOU.

ゆさ…
Shake
THE MIBU WOLVES ARE COMING.
HEY, WE NEED TO GO!
Shake
ゆさ…
Shake
パキャ
ピチャ
ピチャ
YOUR HEAD...
IT'S GONE, SENSEI.
Ha ha...
YOUR ARM, TOO...





YOUR EAR.
IF YOU DON'T GET THAT SEWN UP SOON, IT WON'T HEAL.
SUSUMU!

...
YOU SAW?
I SAW.
...
WANNA GO WITH EVERYONE ELSE?
HMM? UMM...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN THESE CLOTHES. I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED.
THAT SO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IDIOT. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO A SHINOBI WALKING DOWN A STREET FULL OF WARRIORS?
I HAD A PERSONAL JOB THIS TIME.

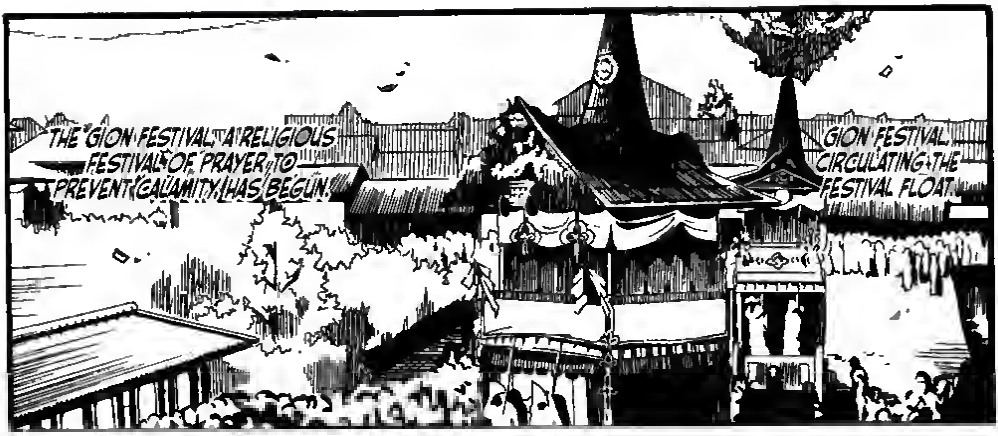
ガッ
ガッ
...
THAT SO?
...
...ICHIMURA.
When we're alone, we really stand out.
I GUESS I'LL GO WITH EVERYONE ELSE.
?
YOU KNOW, I THINK...
...YOU SHOWED SOME REAL STRENGTH.

KYAAA
What's with that face?
Whaa-?
WHAT?!
I DIDN'T HEAR THAT!
SAY IT AGAIN!
HURRY UP AND GO!
HIJIKATA-SAN.
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

HE'S A STRONG CHILD.
HE WON'T BE LIKE ME.
SOUJI...

JUNE 5TH, FIRST YEAR OF GENJI, THE IKEDAYA INCIDENT—FIN

PEACE MAKER.
KITAMURA


THE "GION FESTIVAL," A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL OF PRAYER, TO PREVENT CALAMITY, HAS BEGUN.
GION FESTIVAL... CIRCULATING THE FESTIVAL FLOAT...

SHINSENGUMI-MIBU HEADQUARTERS

GION FESTIVAL!!

LET'S DO IT!

Act. 29

A Day in the Life

YES! I HAVEN'T SEEN IT ONCE SINCE I'VE COME HERE!
IS THAT SO?
YEAH, BUT HAVING A FESTIVAL RIGHT AFTER A BLOODBATH? THE PEOPLE OF KYO ARE TOUGH!
ha ha ha ha!
SAYS ONE OF THE PERPETRATORS OF SAID BLOODBATH.
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE GOT MORE FIREWORKS THIS YEAR.
YOU KNOW THAT FLARE OVER IKEDAYA? A LOT OF PEOPLE SAW THAT.
YEAH!
THAT REALLY HELPED!! BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO SET THAT OFF, RIGHT?!
I GOT BEAT DOWN. WASN'T ME.
NOBODY THOUGHT IT WAS YOU.
...
...
Poke poke

Shieikan: a dojo from which many major Shinsengumi received training.

WE WENT OUT TO FESTIVALS A LOT WHEN WE WERE AT THE SHIEIKAN, DIDN'T WE?!
Agh, shut up already!
YOU NEED TO ACT AND SPEAK LIKE YOUR OWN AGE, HARADA.

I SAW IT ONCE! ON A ROOFTOP EVEN HIGHER THAN THE DOJO'S! I WAS QUITE CONTENT WATCHING FIREWORKS FROM AFAR AND SINGING AT THE TOP OF MY VOICE. IT WAS ME AND HIJIKA--
WHEN THE HELL WAS THAT, TOUDOU?
Embarrassed, Hijikata-san?!

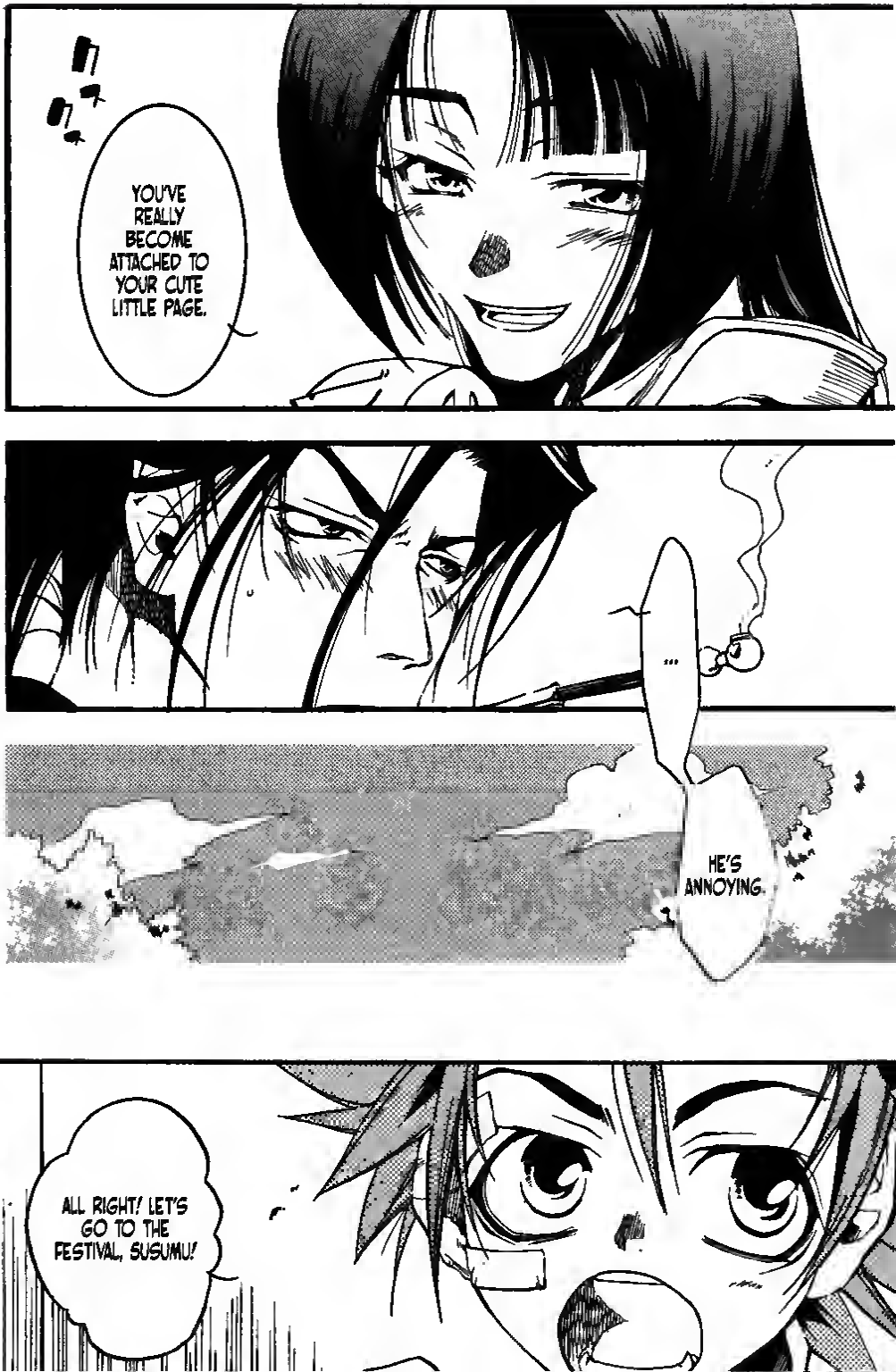
CHOUSHUU WON'T STAY QUIET.
THOSE "OVERTHROW THE BAKUFU" FACTIONALISTS WOULD THINK IT'S A GREAT TIME TO STRIKE AT US.
IT'S A FESTIVAL, NOT SOME EXCUSE TO ACT LIKE A DRUNKEN FOOL.
THEY'RE JUST FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ATTACK OUR HEADQUARTERS.
Whaaaaaat?
You've all got some nerve.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?! I'VE FORGOTTEN WHERE THEY'RE LAUNCHING!
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN, WE'D FIGHT DRESSED LIKE WE WERE.
AND IF WE CAN'T RETURN TO HEADQUARTERS WE'D KICK AROUND OUTSIDE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HIJIKATA-SAN.

JUST LIKE IKEDAYA! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
WE'RE STRONG.
THINGS WILL BE FINE.
BE SOMEWHERE I CAN REACH YOU QUICKLY.
YAY! HIJIKATA-SAN'S SO MAGNANIMOUS. ♡
WE'LL BUY SOME PRESENTS, SOUJI!!!
WE CAN?! IT SEEMS SO UNLIKE HIJIKATA-SAN, OR LIKE IT GIVES ME A REALLY BAD FEELING.
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE ALL GOING ♡
BONK

AS I THOUGHT. HIJIKATA-SAN WON'T STOP THOSE THREE.
HEE HEE HEE.
HEH.
DAMN THEM, MAKING A RUCKUS IN A SICK PERSON'S ROOM!
むっす
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT SICK! I CHOKED ON BLOOD SPLATTERING FROM SOMEONE ELSE.
YES, YOU TOLD ME.
Fidget
Fidget
?
V-VICE COMMANDER!

WE DON'T REQUIRE THAT.
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA!!
どーーーん…
SURELY WE WON'T PERISH IF YOU DON'T FUSS OVER US, TETSUNOSUKE.
YOUR TEA IS SO AWFUL IT'LL DRY OUR THROATS, NOT WET THEM.
YES!
PLEASE GO AND HAVE FUN AT THE FESTIVAL!
Ah ha ha.
Sob Sob Sob
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE US...
...
DEPRESSED

YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF OR TIRE YOURSELF, JUST TO BE POLITE.
I'M TELLING YOU, I'M FINE.
Haaa...
YOU, TOO...
MY COUGH IS GONE.
NONE OF MY BONES ARE BROKEN.
?
EH HEH HEH, YOU SAID IT.
Pu Pu
...


YOU'VE REALLY BECOME ATTACHED TO YOUR CUTE LITTLE PAGE.
...
HE'S ANNOYING.
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO TO THE FESTIVAL, SUSUMU!

Going to the festival alone with a guy. Pathetic.
What?
Why don't you put on one of your dresses, then?
BUT LOOK AT THIS...
HA. HA.
OH, SO YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A YUKATA?
...
?
...WE'RE NOT ALONE.

MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
HEY, HURRY UP!
SUSUMU! TATSU!

...
Chatter
Chatter
BIG BROTHER TATSU! LOOK! LOOK!
I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THIS, AND I'M PRETTY GOOD!
LET ME DO IT AGAIN!

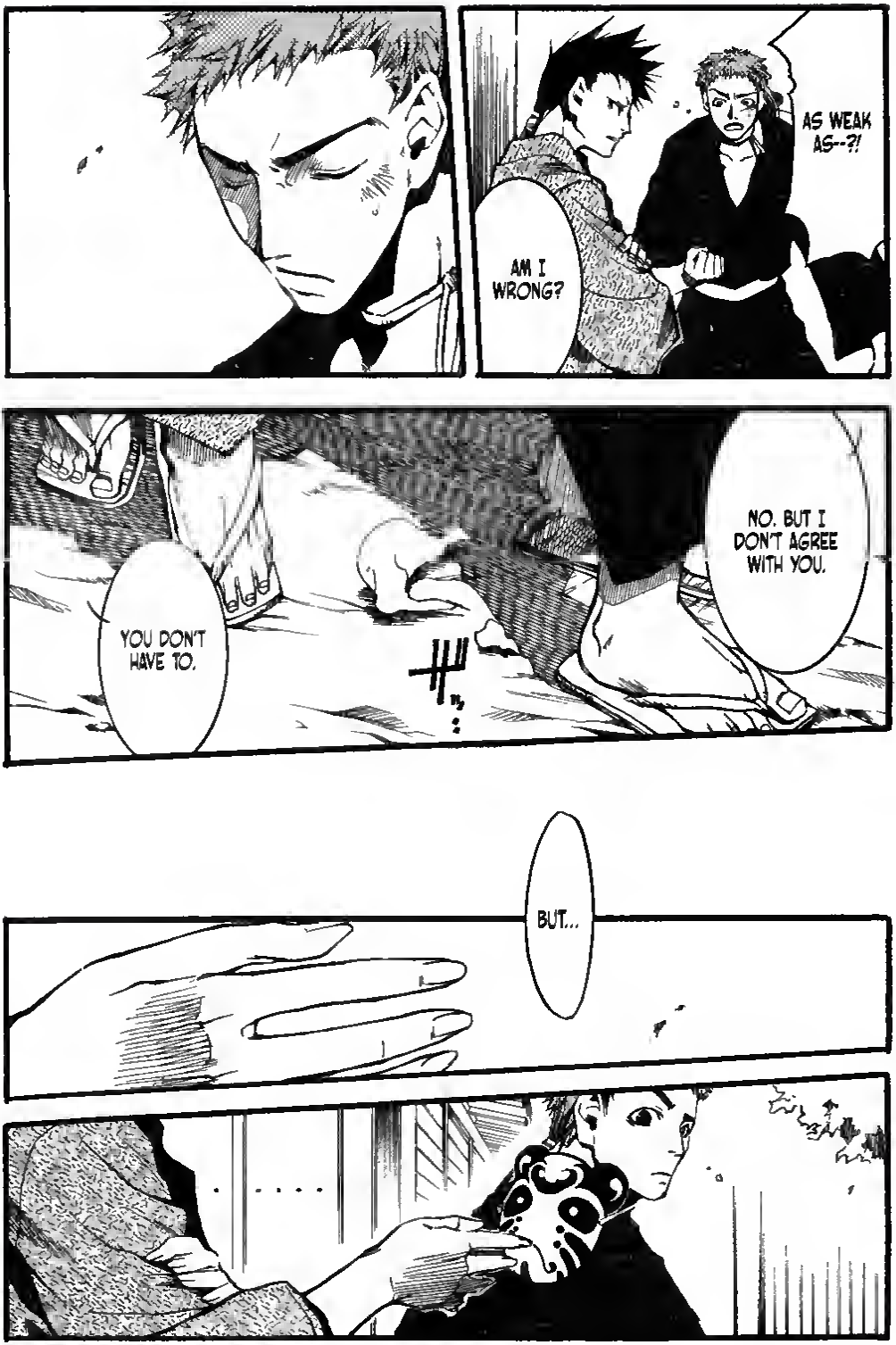
NOT YET.
...
Chatter
Chatter
YOU TWO WAIT HERE FOR A BIT.
SHIMABARA

WAIT, HERE? WAIT--
EEH?!
Calm!!
...
...
...
HM?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY...
I'D REALLY...
...LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

IT'S DISTURBING, HEARING YOU TALK LIKE A HUMAN BEING.
WHAT FACE SHOULD HE PUT ON FOR YOU?
..AND HIS OVERPROTECTIVE BROTHER MAKES HIM FEEL LIKE HE'S DONE SOMETHING WRONG.
EVERYONE AROUND HIM IS PRAISING HIM FOR GETTING OVER IT...
POOR KID.

...
NOBODY SAID YOU WERE ANGRY.
I WASN'T...
...ALL THAT ANGRY.
YOU'RE AFRAID TO SAY THAT HE'S NOT AS WEAK AS YOU WANT HIM TO BE.
?!
NO...
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT TELLING HIM NOT TO TAKE UP THE SWORD?
I'M REALLY GLAD THAT TETSU'S BACK ON HIS FEET AGAIN.
IT'S JUST...


AS WEAK AS--?!
AM I WRONG?
NO. BUT I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT...

NO MATTER HOW WEIRDLY IT MANIFESTS...
...BEING LOVED IS STILL A GOOD THING.
...IF YOU CAN'T AGREE, LET'S COMPROMISE.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG DEBATE THEN.
MY STOMACH.
...
...
Oh? Still unsatisfied?
This is kind of sudden.

GIMME THAT LEFT CHEEK.
HUH...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOT AT ALL! I'D TAKE THE RIGHT CHEEK INSTEAD!
YOU'RE THE PAYBACK TYPE, AREN'T YOU?!
HO HO... HA HA... THAT...
AAAAH!
SO? YOU CAN BLOCK, TOO.
BUT YOU BLOCKED!
SLAP
Rustle

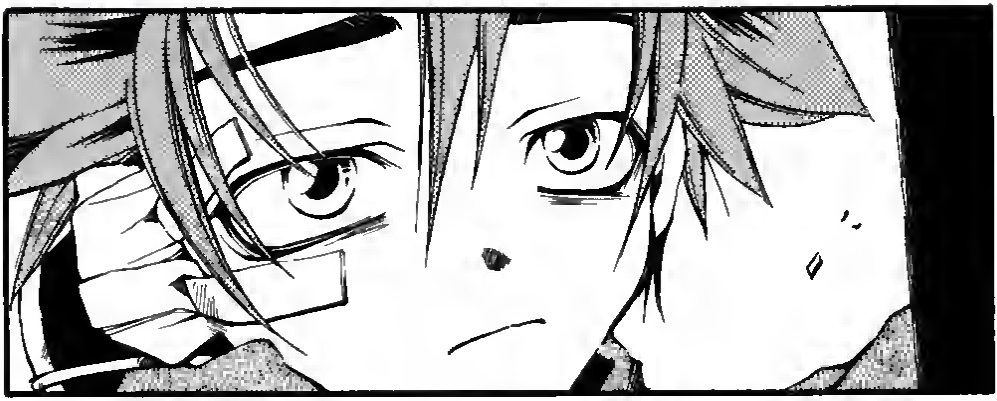
...
WE'RE VERY SORRY...
...BUT SAYA IS INDISPOSED.
EH...?!
AKESATO IS ILL. SAYA IS ATTENDING HER.
JUST FOR A BIT! I WANT TO SEE THE FESTIVAL FLOAT WITH HER!
CAN I JUST TALK TO HER?
THEN, LITTLE CUSTOMER...
ぬぬうっ
...WHAT PRICE DO YOU PROPOSE?
あう

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BUY SAYA!!
I WON'T SAY.
I CAN'T JUST SEE HER?!
Boot
IT'S LIKE THAT, IS IT?!
FINE. I HAVE MY OWN ANSWER.

THE HEADMISTRESS THINKS I WAS INVOLVED IN SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS.
TO BE BEDRIDDEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
BEAR WITH ME, SAYA.
...
Shake shake
Haa...
AND YOU! YOU'D RATHER BE OUT THERE, WATCHING THE FLOATS WITH THAT PUPPY AND HIS FRIENDS, WOULDN'T YOU?
AHH. I'D RATHER BE WITH YAMANAMI-HAN RIGHT NOW, TOO.

!
SAYA!
I WAS THINKING WE COULD GO SEE THE FESTIVAL FLOAT TOGETHER!
HUH? YEAH?
BUT I WAS TURNED AWAY.
SO I'LL GO BUY YOU A PRESENT! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT WEIRD LOOK FOR?
I KNOW! A CANDIED APPLE! YOU LIKE THOSE, RIGHT?
...

すっ
!
OH, THIS ISN'T A SERIOUS WOUND!
I JUST GOT CUT A BIT.
THE DOCTOR SAYS IT'LL HEAL TOGETHER JUST FINE.
...
I'M FINE.



WITH SUZU?
I WON'T MEET HIM ANYMORE.

I PROMISE YOU.

EVEN IF I DRAW MY KATANA...
...I'LL NEVER...
...EVER...
...KILL.

PINKIE SWEAR. ♪
IF I LIE, I'LL SWALLOW A THOUSAND NEEDLES!
PINKY SWEAR. ♪

ハーイ
ヒュ
ハーイ
OH!
SPLENDID! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE DID THIS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
BUT ISN'T THIS NICE?

Meow
EVEN THOUGH YOU TOLD HARADA-SAN AND THE OTHERS THAT THEY COULDN'T!
FOOL, THEN OUR SEATS WOULD'VE BEEN TAKEN.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALWAYS, TOSHI.
RELAXATION IS IMPORTANT SOMETIMES.
Meow

End

To be continued in
Peace Maker Kurogane